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NO DEAL

Education Minister Jeff Johnson speaks to reporters in Calgary on Tuesday afternoon, after the Alberta Teachers' Association rejected the province's latest contract offer. For more coverage, see page 3. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO IN CALGARY

Sheriff shot in courthouse, trio nabbed

Whitecourt. Men appearing in court after drug bust allegedly escaped in sheriff's van, were soon arrested in farmhouse, mayor says

Three men are in custody after a backroom scuffle in a small-town courthouse ended with a sheriff being shot in the hand and a short-lived escape in the officer's vehicle.

The shooting took place just before noon on Tuesday in Whitecourt, where two local men were making their first court appearance after a drug bust last week.

An eyewitness said the disturbance began with what sounded like a fight in a hallway used to transport prisoners.

"You could hear behind the door where they keep prisoners to stand trial, you could hear there was a fight happening between whomever," said Kathlene Campbell-Conlon, a reporter for radio station CFXW, who was in court to cover the appearances.

"The door shut, you heard more fights, you heard a couple of high-pitched screams, then two, maybe three gunshots."

Quoted

"The door shut, you heard more fights, you heard a couple of high-pitched screams, then two, maybe three gunshots."

Eyewitness Kathlene Campbell-Conlon, a reporter for radio station CFXW

The impact of the shots, she said, knocked hangings off the wall inside the court. The immediate reaction among those in the room was panic. Everyone was pushing to get out and chairs were being thrown around, said Campbell-Conlon.

Once outside, she said bystanders tried to get help for the wounded officer.

"You (could) hear people saying, 'You have to call 911! We have to get an ambulance! This officer needs medical attention!'"

Then she watched the suspects flee.

Mayor Trevor Thain confirmed the prisoners escaped in the sheriff's van.

Thain said the two escapees were arrested at a farmhouse about 10 kilometres south of Whitecourt.

Thain said police detained a third man at the farmhouse.

The sheriff, who RCMP say was part of the prisoner transport section, was taken to hospital. Officials with the union representing the sheriffs said he will recover.

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Proposal fails

Teachers reject latest deal

Alberta classrooms are threatened with teachers rejecting a last-ditch contract proposal from the province before next week's budget release, says the education minister.

The deal, proposed last week, would have seen a three-year salary freeze for educators followed by a two per cent hike in the fourth year.

But Alberta Teachers' Association president Carol Henderson deemed the deal less worthy than one shot down in December, which forced a move to local bargaining with 62 separate school boards in the province. She said opposition to the proposal was unanimous.

"We have also heard from our members and have concluded the minister's offer wouldn't receive approval from teachers working with each and every school board," she said.

Henderson also accused Education Minister Jeff Johnson of making "thinly veiled threats" about potential salary rollbacks.

Johnson said he was pointing out the realities associated with a $4-billion projected provincial deficit.

"There are going to be school boards in this province that have less money to work with next year than they had this year — and they may have even more kids in the classroom," Johnson said.

The ATA's public rejection of the contract came just an hour after the Alberta School Boards Association called the same offer a good "starting point."

Edmonton Public Schools board chair Sarah Hoffman said her board opposed the deal, citing the signing bonus, which school boards would have had to pay for.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Students get closer to careers



Mikhaila Currie, 17, stands in the welding shop at St. Joseph High School. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

While her friends ponder what to do after graduating high school, 17-year-old Mikhaila Currie already has post-secondary training under her belt.

A one-of-a-kind partnership announced Tuesday means Currie, a Grade 12 student at St. Joseph High School, will receive credit for a year of post-secondary welding training by the time she graduates this spring.

The partnership coalesces education with industry and will allow Edmonton Catholic School District students to reduce their post-secondary training and join an in-demand field sooner.

"I'm really excited that I found what I want to do at a young age," said Currie, who started welding in Grade 10.

"(This program) is just going to help me get to my goal, which is to get my journeyman ticket a lot sooner," she said.

The partnership brings together the Canadian Welding Association and the Christian Labour Association of Canada with the district's Career Skills Centre, providing students with hands-on experience using state-of-the-art equipment.

Welding touches every sector of our economy, said Dan Tadic, director of the Canadian Welding Association.

"The world simply needs more welders," Tadic said.

MLA Laurie Blakeman attended the announcement and told the welding students they had a lot to look forward to.

"You guys are going to make so much money, it will blow your mind and you'll be out there one year sooner" she said.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Lone crash survivor says he considered suicide

Court hearing. Zach Judd says when he found out four teammates from his high school football team had been killed, he wished he had died as well

The lone survivor of a crash that killed four high school football players in northern Alberta says he thought about suicide after the collision.

Zach Judd has told a court that when he heard that four of his teammates had died, he wished he had died too.

"I feel I should be dead instead of my friends," Judd said in a victim-impact statement Tuesday.

The teen was speaking at the sentencing hearing for Brenden Holubowich.

The 23-year-old has pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death and dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

The Crown and defence have agreed to a prison sentence of three years and a driving prohibition for another three years.

Holubowich's pickup truck collided with a car carrying five members of the Warriors football team from Grande Prairie Composite High School on Oct. 22, 2011.

Court heard Holubowich had earlier been drinking with co-workers at a Grande Prairie bowling alley and was driving at speeds as high as 151 kilometres per hour on the way home to Wembley, Alta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lives lost

- Walter Borden-Wilkins and Tanner Hildebrand, both 15, and Matthew Deller and Vince Stover, both 16, were killed in the crash.
- The judge will rule on the sentencing agreement Wednesday.



Zach Judd, the lone survivor of an accident that killed four of his teammates, walks into court in Grande Prairie on Tuesday to attend the sentencing of Brenden Holubowich, who is charged in the deaths of the four high school football players. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horse Hill. Council approves controversial development plan

Edmonton's northeast will be home to a new residential community after city council approved a plan for the area, over the objections of some farmers and local food advocates.

After two days of public hearings, council approved the controversial structure plan in a 10-3 vote.

Coun. Don Iveson, who along with councillors Ben Henderson and Linda Sloan voted against the plan, said it simply doesn't do enough to protect farmers in the area.

"This plan is really, really tough for the farmers," he said. "It doesn't protect them. At best, it tolerates them."

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi said he was sympathetic to the Edmontonians who live there today and wants the city services this plan promises to be provided to them.

He also said the suburban housing envisioned in the plan is popular in the region and he doesn't want to see homebuyers forced outside the city to get what they want.

"It's about providing choice for people who want to live in the city and contribute taxes," he said.

Janelle Hebert, owner of Riverbend Gardens, a farm located in the area, said she was deeply disappointed council didn't do more to support local food.

"It seems pretty clear to me that city council doesn't support market gardening in our city," she said. "Edmonton missed out on a real opportunity." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



The gallery at city hall was full for a second day as the debate over the Horse Hill-area structure plan continued. Council approved the plan, which will now go to the Capital Region Board for review. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Queue-jumping

Bioethics expert testifies at inquiry

An expert in bioethics says queue-jumping in the health system is never a black-and-white issue.

Dr. Lynette Reid of Dalhousie University says doctors and other caregivers often have to resolve conflicts between personal compassion and community responsibility.

Reid was giving expert testimony to Alberta's Preferential Access Inquiry, which is looking to determine if there is queue-jumping going on in the system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

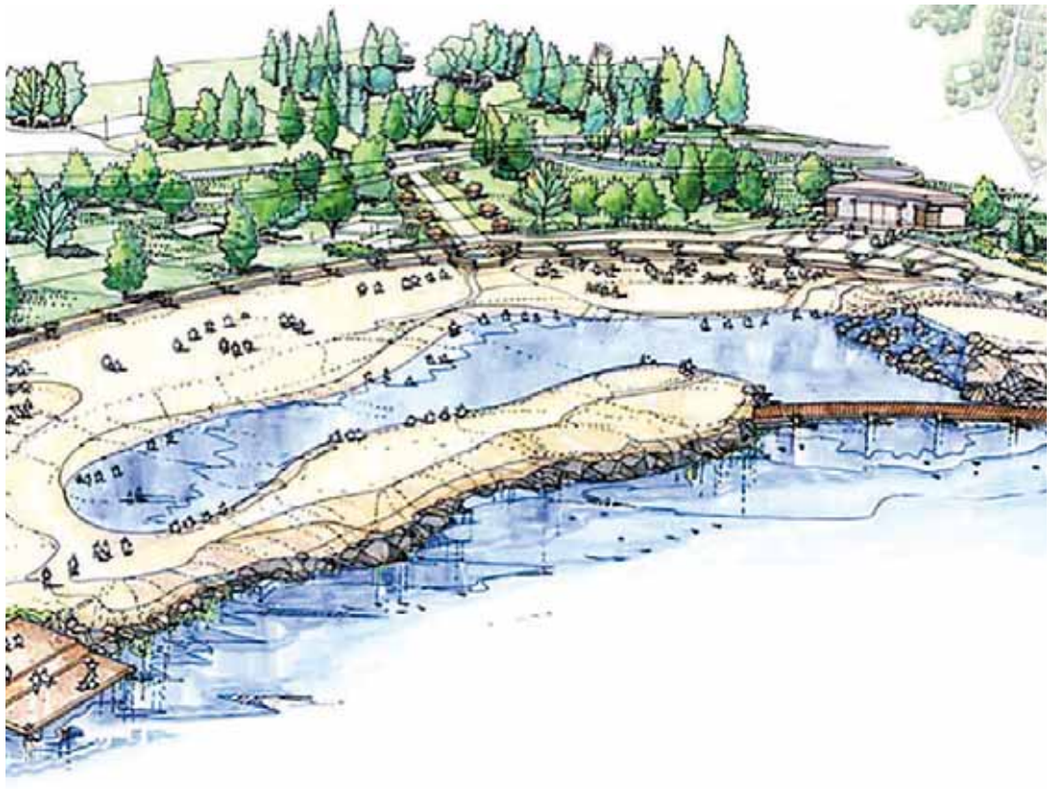
Crime

Man arrested in Samson Cree Nation murder

A man wanted on Canada-wide warrants for murder was arrested not far from the crime scene Tuesday.

Lindsey Allen Bruno, who police have already charged with second-degree murder, was arrested with help from the RCMP police-dog services on the Samson Cree Nation. He is being held in custody.

Levonne Baptise, 16, was shot to death on the Samson Cree Nation on Feb. 2. METRO



Representatives from the Heritage Festival said this original plan for a beach area at Hawrelak Park would cost them several pavilion sites and force them to scale back the festival. CITY OF EDMONTON

Hawrelak Park beach plan up in air

New beach and playground set for 2014. Heritage Festival representatives have concerns about the plans

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Original cost

$4.6M

The original plan would have cost the city about $4.6 million, according to city administration. They did not have a cost estimate for the second site. The Heritage Festival has been using Hawrelak Park since 1976.

Hawrelak Park could still be home to a new beach and playground by 2014, but they may be much different from the ones the city has recommended.

Conceptual images of a new beach and water-play area were released last week, but while reviewing them Tuesday council's community services committee found big concerns.

Representatives from the Heritage Festival said the site city administration is proposing near the lake and beside the existing pavilion would eliminate many of the pavilions at the festival that have been added in recent years.

"If the beach presentation would go ahead at the current location, it would eliminate all of the new locations," said Sue Ooraikul Thomas, the festival's director.

City administration told councillors they believed concerns from the Heritage Festival about the Lakeside location could be addressed, but Mayor Stephen Mandel, who has championed the idea, said it was not worth the fight.

"If it's going to create that much of a problem it's not a hill to die on, that's for sure," he said.

The committee voted to send the second option to council, when council considers the budget for the project in April, but both options could still be considered.

Coun. Bryan Anderson said he wouldn't support the plan regardless of where in the park it goes, because he's not convinced it's needed.

"Usually the mayor champions great ideas, but I think he's a little off-base with this one," said Anderson.



Kim Pudde, EPS 911 supervisor, is surrounded by 911 campaign posters while speaking at police headquarters on Tuesday. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

911. Non-emergency calls clogging up emergency line

Colourful brochures detailing when to call 911 will be sent to all Edmonton homes and businesses this week.

Police hope the "simple and easy-to-read" brochure will combat the wayward 911 calls operators continue to receive, despite a campaign launched in November to reduce non-emergency calls made to 911.

In November, #377, a non-emergency complaint line that can be dialed from a mobile phone, was introduced.

The second phase of the year-long campaign, which includes brochures and posters, was launched on Tuesday.

"We're sort of hoping by re-introducing the theme it will stick in people's heads a little bit more, especially the #377 number," said Kim Pudde, EPS 911 supervisor.

Last year, 379,917 calls came into 911 and more than 64 per cent of those were for non-emergencies.

Wayward calls to 911 included complaints about parking and a stolen comforter.

"911 has just become ingrained in the public's mind as the number you call when you need help of any kind," said Pudde, noting that's not the case.

As the brochure details, 911 is to be called when a crime is in progress or the situation is life-threatening.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

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Tourists bathed in fire in most lethal balloon accident on record



A policeman stands guard at the site of the accident in Luxor, Egypt. NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt. At least 19 dead, with two others suffering severe burns

A hot-air balloon carrying tourists over Egypt's ancient city of Luxor caught fire Tuesday, and some passengers trying to escape the flames leaped to their deaths before the craft crashed in a sugar-cane field. At least 19 tourists were killed in what is believed to be the world's deadliest ballooning accident.

The accident was a new blow to Egypt's tourism industry, which has been gutted by the country's turmoil the past two years.

The crash raised accusations that authorities have let safety standards fall amid the political instability, though the civil aviation chief insisted his ministry keeps stringent inspections.

The balloon was carrying 20 tourists — from France, Britain, Belgium, Hungary, Japan and Hong Kong — and an Egyptian pilot on a flight over Luxor, officials said.

"I saw tourists catching fire, and they were jumping from the balloon. They were trying to flee the fire, but it was on their bodies," said Hassan Abdel-Rasoul, a farmer in al-Dhabaa. He said one of those he saw on fire was a visibly pregnant woman.

Bodies of the dead tourists were scattered across the field.

The crash immediately killed 18, according to Luxor's governor, Ezzat Saad.

Two Britons and the Egyptian pilot were taken to the hospital, but one of the Britons died of his injuries soon after. The other Briton and the Egyptian, who state media said suffered severe burns, were flown to Cairo for further treatment.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa says the Canadian Embassy in Cairo has confirmed that no Canadians have been affected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The accident



The launch site shortly before the explosion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The balloon was landing when a cable got caught around a helium tube and a fire erupted, according to an investigator with the state prosecutor's office.

- **Escalation.** The balloon then shot up in the air, the investigator said. The fire set off an explosion of a gas canister and the balloon plunged some 300 metres to the ground, according to an Egyptian security official.



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Pistorius's testimony may damn him on lesser charge

Even if Oscar Pistorius is acquitted of murder, firearms and legal experts in South Africa believe that, by his own account, the star athlete violated gun-handling regulations and exposed himself to a homicide charge by shooting into a closed door without knowing who was behind it.

Pistorius testified that he shot at the door, fearing but not knowing for certain that an intruder was on the other side. Instead, it was Pistorius' girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

Prosecutors charged Pistorius with premeditated murder, saying the shooting followed an argument between the two.

South Africa has stringent laws regulating the use of lethal force for self-protection. In order to get a firearm permit, applicants must not only know those rules but must demonstrate proficiency with the weapon and knowledge of its safe handling, making it far tougher to legally own a gun than in many other countries.

"There is no situation in South Africa that allows a person to shoot at a threat that is not identified," said Andre Pretorius, president of the Professional Firearm Trainers Council, a regulatory body for firearms instructors. "It could have been a minor — a 15-year-old kid, a 12-year-old kid — breaking in to get food."

Experts said that even if the prosecution fails to prove premeditated murder, firing several shots through a closed door could bring a conviction for the charge of culpable homicide, an equivalent to manslaughter covering unintentional deaths through negligence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loss

Pistorius plans memorial

Oscar Pistorius planned a personal memorial service on Tuesday for Reeva Steenkamp.

The service would be at the home of his uncle Arnold, where the athlete has been staying since he was released on bail.

Pistorius's reputation-management firm said he had requested the service "as he remains in deep mourning for the loss of his partner Reeva."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gatineau, Que.

Alleged assault by Sen. Patrick Brazeau detailed in warrant

A search warrant filed in court says an ongoing argument over aboriginal issues at the home of Sen. Patrick Brazeau escalated into a physical and sexual confrontation.

The police warrant details allegations by a woman in Brazeau's home who says he punched her, choked her, tore her pants off and pushed her down a flight of stairs, breaking the railing.

The complainant also alleges Brazeau aggressively grabbed her breast and another area of her body, called her vulgar names, spit in her face, and tore up a bra and blouse she was trying to pack in a suitcase.

Court documents say Brazeau, 38, has formally pleaded not guilty to charges of assault and sexual assault.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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California

Zoo's wayward bald eagle welcomed back to the nest

A radio transmitter and then a feast of quail and mouse led to the capture of a California zoo's bald eagle after three days on the lam.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo's tame 24-year-old bald eagle Sequoia was enjoying exercise Saturday when, instead of returning to handlers, she flew north and roosted in Menlo Park. Strong winds had spooked her. But Sequoia was tracked Monday to a Redwood City tree.

When found, the famished bird dropped from her tree to the arm of a trainer, John Flynn, who gave her the feast of quail and a mouse.

Sequoia ventured out on her own eight times while at the San Francisco Zoo. She joined the Palo Alto zoo only last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austria

Attempted car theft or elaborate pre-snooze ritual?

As in any place, dozing off behind the wheel in Austria can be deadly. But for one teenager, it could result in a charge of attempted car theft.

State broadcaster ORF quotes police as saying they have identified a 17-year-old male as a suspect after a woman found her vehicle partially hotwired, a door forced open and a youth apparently drunk and fast asleep inside.

ORF said Tuesday the culprit rewired the vehicle to its normal state and walked off after being discovered Sunday.

He was traced after the owner reported the incident to police.

A policeman in Salzburg province confirmed the incident on the phone. He refused to identify either himself or those involved.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Friday, March 1	Drayton Valley	**Monday, March 11**	Edson
Monday, March 4	Lloydminster	**Tuesday, March 12**	Whitecourt
Tuesday, March 5	Camrose		
Wednesday, March 6	Edmonton/Nisku		

you tell us

Alberta Government

Swiss Red Cross to keep blood from Greece

No bread, no red. Aid organization says it will halve shipments to struggling country, citing bad credit



Thalassemia patients are among those who need blood in Greece, but the Swiss Red Cross is planning to cut its supply to the country. GETTY IMAGES

The Swiss Red Cross is slashing its supply of donor blood to Greece because the financially stricken country has failed to pay its bills on time, the head of the group's transfusion service said Tuesday.

Rudolf Schwabe confirmed Swiss media reports that Greece had run up debts of several million Swiss francs in the past. While those debts have since been repaid, the nonprofit SRC has decided to halve its blood shipments to Greece in the coming years in order to limit its financial risk, he said.

Greece's international creditors have demanded the government cut spending on pharmaceutical products as part of bailout agreements.

The Swiss blood sent to Greece comes from unused emergency stockpiles and is designated for humanitarian use. In the past, the SRC charged Greece five million Swiss francs ($5.4 million) to cover its costs for supplying 28,000 blood packets a year.

The Swiss blood shipped to Greece helps meet demand from the country's thalassemia sufferers. There are about 3,000 people in Greece with a severe form of this genetic disorder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prostitution. Amsterdam cracking down on crime through age increase

Amsterdam plans to raise the minimum age for prostitutes from 18 to 21 and force brothels to close during early morning hours.

At a press conference Tuesday, Mayor Eberhard van der Laan said the moves came from a decision to crack down on crime in the city's famed Red Light District and protect sex workers from abuse.

Amsterdam is home to about 8,000 professional sex workers, the city estimates, half of whom operate behind windows with red velvet curtains and red lights.

Van der Laan said that under the new regime all windows would be closed from 4 to 9 a.m.

Prostitution was legalized in the Netherlands in 2000. It has been tolerated in Amsterdam since the 1600s. But the city has been tightening its rules. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Advertisements for sex shops are seen everywhere in Amsterdam's world-famous Red Light District in the Netherlands. Now the city is planning to make some changes to the sex industry. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Employment

Help-wanted ads point to strong job creation in February

The Conference Board of Canada says the country's employment prospects are picking up after going through a two-month soft patch. The think-tank says its help-wanted index for January jumped a strong 10 per cent, with 25 of 27 metro areas posting increases.

The index suggests Canada returned to positive job growth in February after shedding 22,000 workers in January. The Conference Board research shows labour markets remain tightest in the West, particularly Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

File-sharing

Legal threats prompt Pirate Bay to leave Sweden

Embattled file-sharing site The Pirate Bay is looking for safe havens in Norway and Spain after its Swedish host came under legal pressure to shut it down.

The Swedish Pirate Party, a small political party advocating transparency and freedom online, has provided Internet access to the site for the past three years.

But it's handing over those duties to sister parties in Norway and Spain's Catalonia region following legal threats from the Rights Alliance, a Swedish anti-piracy group representing the entertainment industry.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.43¢ (+0.12¢)

TSX 12,660.44 (+9.57)

OIL $92.63 US (-48¢)

GOLD $1,615.50 US (+$28.90)

Natural gas: $3.45 US (+4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,900.13 (+115.96)

Never mind horsemeat — in South Africa, mystery beef includes donkey

Misrepresented meat. New study found 68 per cent of samples contained species not declared on label



Horrified that these cute little fellas might end up in so-called beef products? They're probably not happy about it either. Food scientists in South Africa have found undeclared donkey, water buffalo and goat in processed meat products, thus confirming that the EU is not alone in the battle against mislabelling.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Worried about horsemeat in your beef? Try water buffalo, donkey and goat. South African food scientists said they have found all three in mislabelled foods including beef burgers, ground beef and sausages.

A study published by three professors at Stellenbosch University found that 68 per cent of 139 samples contained species not declared on the product label, with the highest incidence in sausages, burger patties and deli meats.

The study found soya and gluten were not labelled in 28 per cent of products tested, and undeclared pork in 37 per cent and chicken in 23 per cent.

"This study confirms that the mislabelling of processed meats is commonplace in South Africa and not only violates food-labelling regulations but also poses economic, religious, ethical and health impacts," said co-author Prof. Louwrens C. Hoffman.

He said tests the past two weeks on hundreds of samples of imported meat have found no horsemeat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"There's nothing wrong with eating donkey if you like donkey, but if you don't, you have the right to know."

Prof. Louwrens C. Hoffman

iTunes. Apple settlement to award $100M in credits

Apple has agreed to give more than $100 million in iTunes-store credits to settle a lawsuit alleging that the iPhone and iPad maker improperly charged kids for playing games on their mobile devices.

The two-year-old case centres on allegations that Apple didn't create adequate parental controls to prevent children from buying extra features while playing free games on iPhones and iPads in 2010 and 2011.

Parents who filed the lawsuit in 2011 said they didn't realize their children were racking up the charges until they received bills or other notifications after the purchases were made. The games that had been downloaded were designed for kids as young as four years old, according to the lawsuit.

Apple introduced more stringent controls governing in-game purchases as part of a March 2011 update to the software that runs its mobile devices. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS









A new survey has found that many 18- to 34-year-old Canadians are taking what some would consider shocking risks with their personal financial information. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Oversharing financial data puts young adults at risk

Survey. Believe it or not, texting credit card numbers isn't an uncommon practice for many Canadians

Coincidence? Likely not

43%

The survey found that 43 per cent of those who engaged in behaviour such as sharing payment-card information or loaning their card had experienced some kind of fraud.

Many young Canadians are oversharing their financial information, says a new survey that found nearly half of 18- to 34-year-old respondents admitting they take risks like texting their credit- or debit-card numbers.

The poll by Visa Canada found that 45 per cent of this demographic group also shared their payment-card information via email, loaned their cards and didn't keep their PIN confidential.

This behaviour mirrors similar habits of sharing personal information on social-media sites, said Gord Jamieson, head of payment system risk at the credit-card company.

"Yet they're really not totally aware of who has access to this information and who else can be seeing this information and what would be done with it," he said from Toronto.

The survey, released Tuesday, marks the start of fraud-prevention month in March.

Individuals in the 18-to-34 group also reported the highest level of online sharing activities, including keeping an open profile on a social network site and posting to it daily, publicly sharing photos and posting their employment history.

"Just be careful what you put out there," Jamieson said, noting that public Wi-Fi networks for mobile devices aren't necessarily secure.

For the older generations, they tend not to overshare quite as much.

Among those aged 35 and older, the survey found that 32 per cent reported taking risks with their payment-card information. This group also reported less sharing of personal information online.

The survey also found that 43 per cent who had engaged in behaviour such as sharing payment-card information or loaning their card had experienced some kind of fraud.

"So, is that a coincidence?" Jamieson asked. "They are creating that opportunity by engaging in that risky behaviour. Those people are twice as more likely to be victims of fraud today."

The survey also found that 56 per cent of respondents said they were more concerned now about identity theft than they were five years ago, while 50 per cent of respondents said they were more concerned about payment-card fraud today compared to five years ago.

The online survey was conducted by market research firm Fabrizio Ward with 1,000 major credit and debit cardholders from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Would you book a berth on the Titanic II?

Australian billionaire Clive Palmer unveiled blueprints and renderings Tuesday for the Titanic II, a replica of the doomed original. He said 40,000 people have expressed interest in tickets for the maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York, a trip that's expected to take place in 2016. Construction on the ship is scheduled to start soon in China.

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LISTEN UP, LANGUAGE POLICE



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Le gouvernement du Québec is in trouble because its overzealous language police tried to ban the word "pasta" from the menu of an Italian restaurant.

"Pâtes" doesn't quite have the same ring but it's all part of a legitimate effort to preserve the French language in the face of creeping … Italian.

Of course, the story went viral and now le gouvernement is calling off les chiens.

Trying to write in both official languages is exhausting. So I'm stopping. Maintenant, er, now.

The point is that taking care of the language is a thankless task. We should worry less about giving our francophone cousins a tough time about their vigilance and concentrate on our own English language transgressions, which are légion.

New linguistic tack

The ultimate tip-off that you're dealing with a suspected language violator is "tact," which actually means "diplomacy," but is most often used as a word meaning "tactic" or "approach."

In fact, Quebec has given me a good idea. I'm going to assemble my own language police and send violation notices by Twitter, which should make me even more popular than usual.

The hardest thing is where to start. If we ban the use of the word "like" except in its proper context, that is: "I like ice cream," an entire generation will be struck dumb. Same with other ubiquitous language shrapnel such as "O my God" and "awesome," which is not.

As bad as those are, they're nothing compared to the battery of baloney designed to make the user appear smarter or more well-read. Regardez: "Irregardless," which is a faux gilding of the lily known as "regardless."

The ultimate tip-off that you're dealing with a suspected language violator is "tact," which actually means "diplomacy," but is most often used as a word meaning "tactic" or "approach." Tact is short for tactic, no? The shortest distance between two ideas?

No.

The actual term is "tack," which is a nautical term for an effective way to make forward progress into a headwind. Once you've learned to tack, you'll never go back. But we need to deal sternly with all those clever tacticians if we're to make any headway.

The biggest challenge for my new Grammar Gendarmes, I predict, will be jargon, which is a mélange (stop that!) of acronyms and catchy phrases that make the offender sound as if he's speaking Esperanto from a script by Steve Jobs.

For example: "POTUS will do his due diligence and nominate from within his own wheelhouse for the next SCOTUS vacancy." Even l'office québécois de la langue française would have trouble figuring out if that's English, Italian or Klingon. That's punditry gone wild, and should read: "After careful consideration, the U.S. president will nominate a political ally to fill the next vacancy on the Supreme Court."

America is suffering from a language recession and may be a lost cause. But ici Canada, we still maintiens le droit. Vive la difference!

A giant leap of fate



ULET IFANSASTI/GETTY IMAGES

Ancient tradition

Boys become men in stone jumping

You'd call it a leap of faith, but for youngsters in rural Indonesia, it's more a leap of their fate.

In Orahili Fau village, Nias Island, some 1,200 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, young men take part in stone jumping, "fahombo batu," a manhood ritual of leaping over stone towers — a feat which in the past has resulted in serious injury and death. **METRO**

Stone tradition

Nias Island is last megalithic culture

The island of Nias, dominated by mountainous terrain and ravines, has been described as having one of the world's last megalithic cultures.

Until the 1950s, locals would erect monoliths, "owasa," used for ceremonies. Experts have never found stone-jumping sites elsewhere in Indonesia, pointing to the island's uniqueness in the megalithic tradition. **METRO**

Size of the stone

2.5

metres is the height of this column. The intrepid youth, dressed in traditional warrior garb, run up and hop on a small, round stone to gain momentum and height before soaring feet first over the block. In the past, the block was topped with sharpened bamboo stakes. The centuries-old practice of stone jumping first began when intertribal wars were rife. Every valiant fighter would be able to leap over the high stone walls of a rival village, fringed with bamboo stakes across the top.

Past traditions gone

Count number of jumps, not heads

In traditional Nias society, "mangani binu" (decapitation of enemies) was a principal ritual for young men.

Nowadays, instead of the number of skulls a person acquired determining one's social status, it is based on how many stones could be jumped over. But the use of traditional weapons in local ceremonies is a reminder of this ritual. **METRO**

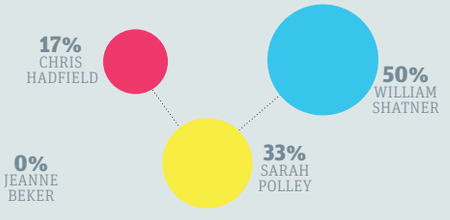


Memo: When referring to any type of cooked noodle in Quebec, choose pâtes over pasta. TIMOTHY HIATT/GETTY IMAGES

Metropolitan Panel

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Which of these prominent Canadians should cross over into politics?



Twitter

@erinefraser: I think I'm going to quit my job and open a cat cafe in #yeg

@erinPre: Now is the most hateful time of year in #yeg - it's warm enough to run outdoors, but we have 8 wks left of icy sidewalks = running inside

@baconhound: A rude Canadian is an Eh-hole. #yeg

@whittychristian: The Internet has forever ruined antiques. #yeg's antique malls are just extreme price gouge centres.

@synchronaut: Chez Pierre or Chez Pierre gender swap #yeg #halloweencostumeideas

@kendracreative: Swallowed my labret stud today. Oh dear what a #fail oops. #fml. #yeg

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21 and Over

Birthdays are universal



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Paris Hilton once said, "The way I see it, you should live everyday like it's your birthday." Of course she would think that way. She's young. And rich.

Like death and taxes, birthdays are one of the events that touch everyone's lives. Not everyone loves to celebrate getting older — "There is still no cure for the common birthday," said John Glenn — but Hollywood seems to enjoy throwing birthday parties — on screen at least. This weekend in 21 & Over a med school student makes merry on his birthday with two of his besties. But like so many movie birthday parties it goes horribly wrong — or horribly right if you have a taste for humiliation, extreme drunkenness and debauchery.

Horror movies have frequently used birthday parties as a backdrop for terror. The alien invasion movie Signs made Bravo's 100 Scariest Movie Moments list for a scene showing news footage of an alien at a child's birthday party in Brazil.

The film Logan's Run is set in an idyllic future. There's just one huge drawback — on your 21st birthday you will be vaporized into a sticky goo during a ritual called the Carousel.

Not all movie birthdays are bummers, however.

Despite hiring a drunken clown to perform at his nephew Miles's (Macaulay Culkin) birthday, Uncle Buck, played by the late, great John Candy, does the best he can to throw a great birthday party. The best part? He makes giant pancakes — they're so extreme they now have their own Facebook page with 290 likes — boasting, "You should see the toast. I couldn't even get it through the door!"



Miles Teller, left, Justin Chon and Skylar Astin star in Relativity Media's 21 & Over. HANDOUT

Miles Teller draws the line at French kissing

21 & Over. Star had difficult time agreeing to some scenes in new movie



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Miles Teller insists he's generally game for anything once he's signed on to a film, but as he learned on 21 & Over — the directorial debut of The Hangover writers Jon Lucas and Scott Moore — there were some lengths to which Teller wasn't quite willing to go for the sake of comedy.

Diving right into the nudity issue, there are a few very bold scenes for you in this. How do you psyche yourself up for that?
Or not. I mean, I know when you read the script or agree to do a movie, you know you're going to agree to do everything. The nudity stuff, I just made sure I worked out, you know what I mean? Because some movies you don't have time. You can work out before a movie, but then when you're shooting there's really no time. I know some actors do it, and people should really give them credit because they're working 14 hours a day, it's exhausting, and then working out and getting like five hours of sleep. It's pretty tough. So for this I just made sure I worked out, and the (guy-on-guy) kissing scene was something I tried to get rid of for a while. I was literally like pretty upset about that. And then we did it and it was just like CPR.

You were upset about it?
Kiss a guy? Yes. Inevitably, I did it for comedy. But they wanted me to use the tongue and I said, "Nope. It's not that funny, man."

These guys are known for going pretty far for a joke. Was there anything else where you had to draw the line?
No. I mean, there was a point where me and Skylar were shackled up and were getting spanked. At one point the shackle broke, so I had to bend over and fix it and s—, and there was all these girls around, and I was just like, "I'm sorry about some a— hole." Then I just went down and fixed it. Other than that, I felt pretty safe. The humour that these guys write, they're both extremely intelligent. And it's funny, it's well-written, it's not, like, dumb comedy. I never felt like I was doing cheesy or manipulative stuff. I felt pretty comfortable with everything.

What's your own most dramatic drinking anecdote?
I just remember the only time I had alcohol poisoning, when I was literally puking black, and I was just like, "This is bad." Nothing black should ever come out of your body, you know what I mean? Especially out of your mouth. There's some crazier s— I'm sure, but if you remember it then it probably wasn't that good.

How did your own college experience compare to this?
Not at all. I mean, NYU is just, like, New York. I mean, New York is your college campus, and when I was in college I smoked a lot of weed and played a lot of FIFA. That was pretty much what I did. But I grew up in Florida. Florida State's a pretty stereotypical party college. Anywhere in the South, anywhere in the sun with a college with a good sports team is going to be fun.

Nicholas Hoult is having some Giant success

Nicholas Hoult has already had plenty of success this year with last month's zombie rom-com, Warm Bodies, but now he's on to a much bigger adventure as Jack in Jack the Giant Slayer, director Bryan Singer's take on the classic tale. Plus, he has another little comic book movie with Singer lined up next.

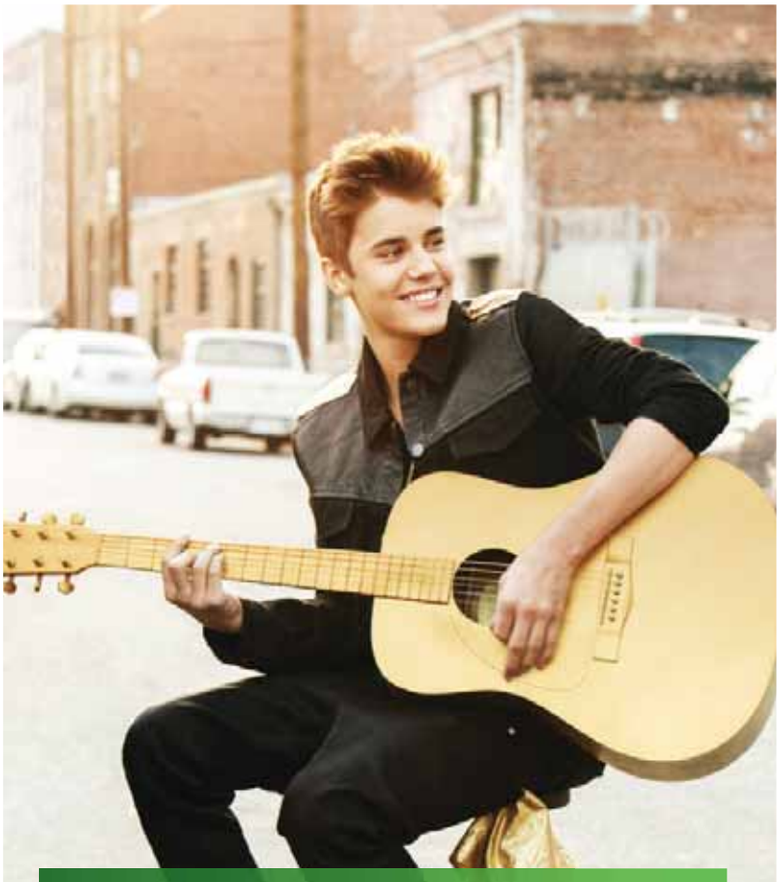
When you finally get a horse-riding role, it's one of those signs that you've made it.
I don't know if I've necessarily made it, but it's very cool to be a part of a film of this scale. People often say they can ride a horse even when they can't, even when they've never sat on a horse in their life. It's just a given. You read anyone's C.V. and it will say that they can ride a horse. And then if they get a horse-riding role then they'll panic and try and learn to ride quickly.

Congratulations on the success of Warm Bodies. Have you noticed any palpable changes in your life now that you have a hit movie out?
Not particularly. To be honest with you, that weekend I went down to Africa to start shooting a film down there and then got back yesterday morning, so I was kind of kept out of it a little bit.

You're going back to work with Bryan Singer again with X-Men: Days of Future Past.
He's a really talented director and really knowledgable about film, and can really break down stories and characters and understands how to move a story forward at all times. He's fantastic in the X-Men world, really understands it. I haven't spoken to him in-depth about this next one yet, but I know he's really excited about it, and that's a great sign. I'm looking forward to playing that role again.

The new film seems to mix actors from different time periods of the franchise, like Ian McKellan and Ellen Page, then you and Jennifer Lawrence. Are you giving much thought to how you'll be interacting with them yet?
You know what, the odd thing was it was fantastic doing our version, First Class, but suddenly this time when I heard that Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellan and Patrick Stewart and those guys were coming back and that I was going to be in it, it suddenly became a much more real X-Men film in many ways — as much as ours did when we were doing it, we were all new to it and it was a different time and take on it. So to be part of one of the films with all those characters is going to be really exciting for me as a fan.

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS



YOU COULD WIN A CONCERT DATE WITH BIEBER!

METRO "BELIEBES" IN LOVE!

Metro is inviting one lucky winner to a VIP experience at a Justin Bieber concert. You could win airfare, hotel and concert tickets for two with backstage passes to meet Bieber himself on one of his European Tour stops. All you have to do is:

1. Take a photo of yourself with the "I Beliebe in Love" ad which appeared on February 14th 2013 in a place you'd like to take Justin on a date. (If you missed the ad you can print it out at www.clubmetro.com/bieber)
2. Upload your photos by visiting www.clubmetro.com/Justin
3. Remember to share the love! Collect votes from your friends to increase your chances of landing the grand prize!

metro

PIZZA 73

Beliebes in love too!

Vote for your favourite Belieber today and help send them on a concert date with Justin Bieber!

No purchase necessary. Contest open to residents of Canada and certain other countries worldwide who are thirteen (13) years of age or older. Odds of winning depend on the number and caliber of eligible entries received. One (1) Grand Prize is available to be won, consisting of a trip to see Justin Bieber perform and meet Justin Beiber (approximate retail value of $5,000 USD). Skill testing question required. Contest closes February 28, 2013 at 12,00AM CET. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.facebook.com/metroint. Contest sponsors are Metro International S.A. together with its local Metro subsidiaries around the globe. The contest is in no way sponsored by Free Daily News Group Inc. or Pizza Pizza Limited. Neither Free Daily News Group Inc. nor Pizza Pizza Limited is responsible for this contest or its prize(s).

Big Brother gets a Canadian sibling

Reality TV. Franchise stays true to classic formula, but with a few Canuck twists

As the guests move into the camera-rigged house of Big Brother Canada, executive producer John Brunton is already predicting a breakout star: 21-year-old funky fashion stylist Gary Levy.

The outspoken reality show guru touted a diverse cast of off-the-wall Canucks seeking fame and a modest fortune on the inaugural season of the homegrown spinoff starting Wednesday, singling out the Toronto contender as one to watch.

"Gary is a superstar," Brunton gushed in a recent interview after 15 house guests were announced.

"I'll make a prediction: I predict that Gary is going to have a gigantic career after he leaves the Big Brother house, whenever that might be. That guy is 100 per cent original. He is delightful."

Levy describes himself as "funky, outgoing, fabulous" in an online biography for the Big Brother Canada website. He says his strategy is to "be really social and friendly" so that he can get information on his rivals and possibly use that against them.

His competitors include 27-year-old dental hygienist Emerald (Topaz) Brady of Toronto, 26-year-old web content curator Peter Brown of Surrey, B.C., and 36-year-old Suzette Amaya of Vancouver, who also caught Brunton's eye.

The aboriginal cast member is a mother of three who bills herself as "outgoing, thoughtful and funny" and "an uber fan" of the franchise. Brunton simply describes her as "somebody who really blows my mind. She just ticks off so many boxes in the 'good person' department.

"But she's not in any way what some people might assume to be ... a person who's grown up on a reservation and come off it. She just breaks all stereotypes."

Whether such nice-guy attributes will be a help or hindrance has yet to be seen.

The franchise — based on the original Dutch series Big Brother — sends house guests packing after weekly physical and intellectual competitions. But it's the sometimes explosive personality clashes that often seal a contender's fate.

Canada's inaugural batch of house guests have plenty of personality, but Shaw Media boss Barbara Williams says they weren't necessarily cast for their potential to cause drama. "It was much more about the magnetism that someone just projects, who has just real presence in a room," says Williams.

The Canuck crew is notably young — 12 of the 15 house guests are in their 20s.

The youngest is 20-year-old aspiring actress Danielle Alexander of Calgary, a former competitive gymnast who says she's confident she can handle the physical challenges. The oldest is 38-year-old Andrew Monaghan of Halifax, an insurance sales trainer who says he plans to hide his age.

Brunton says the group is nonetheless culturally, economically and regionally diverse. "You've got people that are still living with their moms and dads, maybe longer than they should, and you've got other people that are out in the world at a very young age trying to crack it and make it in a big competitive world."

Of course, the moment they enter the house contenders can pretend to be whoever they want — lying, back-stabbing and deal-making have become staple strategies in other incarnations.

The grand prize is $100,000, a $25,000 gift card for The Brick and a Chevrolet Trax. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian, eh?

Comparisons to the popular U.S. version of the show are inevitable.

- There will be classic challenges from the franchise, as well as challenges that are "very Canadian," according to executive producer John Brunton.
- "There is going to be an enormous amount of Canadian flavour, just by the nature of the people that we put in that house," he says.
- Viewers will also have the chance to affect what happens on the show online. And footage from the house will be streamed 24-hours-a-day for free at bigbrothercanada.ca.
- Shaw Media boss Barbara Williams says it's time Canada put its mark on the global franchise, which aired 25 formats in 87 countries in 2011 and continues to expand into new territories.

Show times

Big Brother Canada debuts Wednesday on Slice and Global.

- Hosted by Arisa Cox, the series will regularly air Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays on Slice.
- Big Brother Canada After Dark also debuts Wednesday on Slice. It airs seven days a week from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. ET.



METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan looking to change her ways — no, really

It may be a case of too little too late, but Lindsay Lohan is reportedly looking to change her ways — and her lawyer is asking for her current probation violation case to be delayed so that she can do just that, according to TMZ.

Her new attorney, Mark Heller, has asked for a continuance, arguing that Lohan "is pursuing and participating in certain activities which will benefit her and afford her more of an opportunity to be a productive and responsible person and contributor to society," court documents reveal.

The documents further state that Lohan "has made a commitment to herself to elevate her life and participate in activities which will advance her desire to lead a model life."



Prince Michael Jackson

Into the spotlight: Prince getting into Hollywood

Prince Michael Jackson, the 16-year-old son of the late Michael Jackson, is wasting no time in getting into the entertainment industry. The Hollywood Reporter has learned that Jackson will make his acting debut as a guest star on 90210, playing a trauma victim on the CW drama. And just last week Jackson began working with Entertainment Tonight as a special on-air correspondent.

The Word



MacFarlane keeps on entertaining

Apparently Seth MacFarlane didn't get his need to perform out of his system at the Oscars Sunday night, as the host also took the stage for a few numbers at his private after-party in front of family and friends, according to E! News.

He also celebrated the night by getting cosy with Charlize Theron. "Charlize was very chatty with Seth and they shared a laugh in between his performances," a source says. "The party wasn't packed, but everyone seemed to be enjoying the singing and dancing."

Theron reportedly stayed at the shindig for quite a while. METRO WORLD NEWS

His memorable opening song

Maybe you found Oscar host Seth MacFarlane hilarious or offensive or neither or both. Either way, you surely remember his opening number, We Saw Your Boobs. In the song, he called out Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and other notable actresses for showing their stuff (including Jodie Foster in the rape movie The Accused — ha-ha Seth?).

Celebrity porn website Mr. Skin has now collected clips from every film mentioned. Good marketing! Timely! Gross? METRO

Once is more than enough

It looks like it's one and done at the Oscars for Seth MacFarlane. The Family Guy creator was asked on his Twitter account whether he'd consider hosting the Academy Awards again and he replied: "No way. Lotta fun to have done it, though."

MacFarlane's edgy comedy proved a polarizing force on Sunday's Academy Awards, with jokes about domestic violence, women's bodies and Jews in Hollywood that offended some viewers. The Oscars did get their biggest audience in three years, however, with particular growth among young viewers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Anne Hathaway

Hathaway just wants to be as likeable as possible

She may have won an Oscar this week, but that doesn't mean Anne Hathaway is immune to criticism.

"It does get to me," Hathaway said of the snipes directed at her after winning the award Sunday.

"But you have to remember that there's a positive to every negative and a negative to every positive."

And a source tells Us Weekly that Hathaway was even looking to head-off her critics before the big awards show by practising her acceptance speech to make sure she came off as likeable as possible. "She was very aware that she had been the butt of everyone's jokes," a source says.

Twitter



@SethMacFarlane
My cat said the show went well.



@KirstieAlley
old women's hands look like they are wearing creepy skin gloves...I know this because they are on my hands



@realjeffreyross
How come @HuffingtonPost doesn't get excited when I show side boob? #sexist



@msleamichele
This scene I'm shooting at #Glee today requires lots and lots of crying.. At first it's therapeutic.. Then it just becomes exhausting! :(

5 reasons to visit the Florida Keys

With azure waters and a long list of big game fishing world records and tropical reef fish to see, it's no wonder author and sportsman Ernest Hemingway spent a decade of winters in the Florida Keys. The Overseas Highway, or U.S. Route 1, strings together more than 50 small islands with a swashbuckling past that rise above an ancient coral reef. Here, whether it's by sailboat or jet ski, riding on the water is the only to get around.

BY GRAHAM LANKTREE
Metro Canada



FLICKR: VASENKA

Key West

The quirky character of Key West, with its sun-drenched colours and retro '80s motel signs, finds roosters roaming public parks alongside cats and buskers. Here, Hemingway's house is now filled with a brood of 43 felines descended from six-toed Snowball, who belonged to the adventurous author. The house stands across from a 164-year-old lighthouse warning ships and their treasure about the treacherous reef shores. Ride out on the water around the island and round the tip of the southernmost point of the U.S. Spot colourful reef fish while snorkelling and you will see just how important the life aquatic is to the keys.



FLICKR: CAYABO

Big Pine Key, Bahia Honda State Park

Take the road north from Key West and enter miles of leafy mangroves growing around a series of smaller keys that the beloved manatee calls home. From the Overseas Highway, you can see the remains of the historic railroad Standard Oil partner Henry Flagler used to pave a way into the area in 1912. Entering Big Pine Key, look for an endangered white-tailed deer half the size of ones found in Canada. The most natural sandy beaches in the keys are found here, where sea sponges regularly wash up on shore at Bahia Honda State Park.

Marathon, Pigeon Key

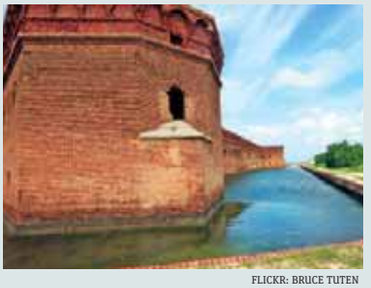
Locals give the keys their character and on Marathon, Turtle Hospital founder Richie Moretti, a one-time mechanic, is excited to share his passion for the gentle beasts. You can visit his recovering loggerhead, Ridley and green sea turtle patients, who are then released back into the wild. Pieces of the original Flagler railway that linked the island keys in 1912 come closely into focus travelling to Marathon. Grab some lobster tacos at the Sunset Grille, a tiki bar near the Pigeon Key ferry and sip from their line of kitschy cocktails that come in collectible mugs, including the Magic Marlin and Pina' Pineapple.



FLICKR: EASYGIE

Dry Tortugas (Lower Keys)

Big Pine Key and the lower keys of Dry Tortugas National Park are unspoiled in their beauty. Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León discovered these islands 500 years ago in 1513. The hundreds of sea turtles he and his men found basking on the shoals gave the islands their name. A high speed ferry of sea plane from Key West will get you to the Tortugas, the most remote of America's National Parks. Just west of the Marquesas Keys are coral reefs where an experienced diver can feel as though they're a character in Finding Nemo.



FLICKR: BRUCE TUTEN



FLICKR: STIG NYGAARD

Key Largo

Hollywood actor Humphrey Bogart left his mark on the keys when he starred in the film noir gangster flick Key Largo. The story of Bogie holing up in a hotel during a hurricane, only to find it swarming with gangsters, became so popular the area changed its original Spanish name. It was no longer Cayo Largo, the longest key. This area is also known as the diving capital of the world. If you don't have time to take a scuba crash course, travel on a glass-bottomed boat from John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.



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Ski the slopes and support an athlete at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort

There's still time to book a ski vacation. And why not try a unique, small mountain-town with a beautiful view

GIZELLE LAU
life@metronews.ca



Kicking Horse is the first four-season mountain resort to open in the Canadian Rockies in 25 years. HANDOUT

Make the most of what's left of winter, Canada. Get those legs moving and head out west to Golden, B.C., for a genuine boutique ski resort experience at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort. Just 2.5 hours from Calgary, the drive is certainly not a tedious one; complete with views of snow-capped mountains, heavy green conifers and frozen, bluer-than-blue waterfalls in the distance.

And if champagne powder wasn't a good enough reason to go, this winter (until May 1st) when you book a stay in Kicking Horse's Glacier Mountaineer Lodge (a Bellstar Resort), you could support local Olympic hopeful Brady Leman, a Bellstar-Resort-sponsored athlete. A World Cup Ski Cross Gold and Silver Medalist, Leman is one of Canada's biggest hopes at Sochi 2014 — and no stranger to Kicking Horse.

As the first four-season mountain resort to open in the Canadian Rockies in 25 years, Kicking Horse offers a unique, small mountain-town experience with all the skiable terrain of the big resorts. No crowds, no lineups, no parking hassles and all while boasting the third-highest vertical drop in Canada.

Up top (a 12-minute gondola ride to almost 8,000 feet), jaw-dropping panoramic views make you feel like you're on top of the world, overlooking almost all six surrounding national parks, including Banff, Glacier, Kootenay, Yoho, Mt. Revelstoke and Jasper. It just doesn't get any better than this — that is, until you get to make your way down — into cavernous bowls of fluffy white snow, winding through untouched trails, down into the puffy layer of cloud, at which point you may realize you haven't seen another skier in ages and all you can hear is the sound of your feet schussing all the way down. Now that's golden.

The lowdown

Perks. Once considered a resort exclusively for advanced skiers or snowboarders, in the past five years, Kicking Horse has developed numerous trails and lessons that are beginner and intermediate-friendly. On Sundays, Kicking Horse offers Powder Room ski clinics just for women — a great way to learn, improve and build confidence in a supportive environment.

Stay. For couples or small families, stay at Bellstar's Kicking Horse Glacier Mountain Lodge, conveniently located at the bottom of the mountain, just steps from the gondola and rental shop. For larger groups, Bellstar's Homes Collection offers large multi-family ski chalets like 1601 Cache Estates: fully furnished and stocked, complete with outdoor hot tub and a roaring gas fireplace.

More information. Go to bellstar.ca, glaciermountaineer.com or kickinghorseresort.com.



Job hunting. Tips to fix stale, dull cover letters

LINDSAY ROTHMAN
TalentEgg.ca

Navigating the world of resumés and cover letters is like trying to do an assignment without any guidelines from your professor.

At school, if you wrote an organized and well-researched paper, you'd get a decent—if not a great— mark.

Job hunting is a different story. When you don't hear back from employers after applying, it's hard to know what needs improvement.

We recently completed a round of hiring at Influitive, the company I work for. Based on my experience, I'd like to share some resumé and cover letter tips that will help you land your next job interview.

1. Pretend you're on Twitter
If your cover letter was a tweet, what would it say? Get right to the point.

Lose the, "I'm applying for the ABC position at EFG Corporation that was posted on the student careers website of University XYZ."

Writing this sentence on Twitter would be a total waste of characters. Instead, your cover letter should start with your pitch: "I'd be a great fit for the ABC position because XYZ."

2. Ditch the R2-D2 vibe
Write a cover letter the way you would write a blog post — using a human voice.

Read your cover letter out loud. Now read a post from your blog out loud. Notice a difference? Your cover letter is written in a robotic voice that you may think sounds professional. It's not.

3. Lose your laundry lists
Why does your resumé include laundry lists of each daily task you performed for all the jobs you've ever had?

Recruitment experts rant about this resumé problem all the time, yet it came up so often in the round of hiring we just did. Make achievements the focal point of your resumé and cover letter, and cut the rest out.

4. Stop the resumé firing squad
We all know the drill: modify a few resumé buzzwords, change the company name and job title and fire off multiple applications into cyberspace. Instead, opt for a quality-over-quantity approach by applying to a few positions very well.

Get stylish with an infographic resumé

Visual data.
Attractive image-based format allows prospective employers to quickly scan work history

LINDSAY ROTHMAN
TalentEgg.ca



Infographic resumés, like this one by Vancouver designer Cheryl Ticne, can grab employers' attention. CONTRIBUTED

On average, employers spend somewhere around 45 seconds reviewing a resumé.

Resumé writing aims to help the employer to effortlessly extract and retain the most vital information. The art of resumé writing consists of successfully transferring the story of your professional life onto one page.

Enter the infographic, a tool that visually represents and simplifies complex data. An infographic resumé is a unique way to condense and quantify the information on your resumé. Not to mention it looks slick, contemporary and really awesome.

Cheryl Ticne, a Vancouver-based information designer and recent BCIT graduate, has developed a template for her own infographic resumé (pictured) and has been testing the efficiency of this tool in the workforce.

Ticne says she chose to try this approach to give employers an instant idea of her skills. With the endless submissions of resumés received by HR departments, the infographic resumé makes it easy to process information quickly in an organized and catchy format.

It took Ticne around three days to come up with the initial design for her resumé. The inspiration comes from other designs combined with her own ideas. "It was quite a process for me to finally have a resumé that presented me very well," she says.

This is a familiar struggle amongst job-seekers. The infographic resumé for Ticne is a perfect example of a unique, relevant, and interesting way to present your skills.

One employer even told her that her resumé was at the top of his pile due to its unique and professional esthetics.

An infographic resumé is not an option limited to those in the field of design or graphics. This format is perfect for individuals who carry a lot of information on their resumé since it helps employers quickly understand exactly what the candidate is about. Incorporating this concept doesn't mean that the entire resumé has to be an infographic, either. Simply adding a few images can give your resumé a little something extra. Breaking up the sometimes mundane text can really help prevent you from being lost in the black hole of redundant submissions.

We know all too well the importance of having a perfect resumé. Finding the balance between creativity and professionalism can be the ultimate challenge. Tactics such as adding infographics can be helpful as long as it is in line with the context of the position for which you are applying.

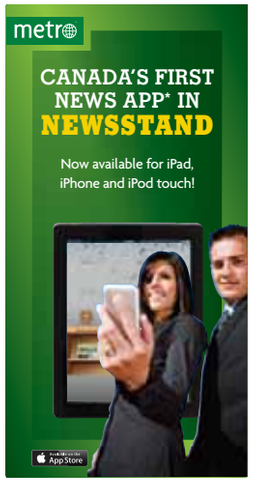
If an employer is only going to spend 45 seconds reviewing your resumé, you better make the seconds count. How you do that is entirely up to you.

What it all means

- The numbers on Cheryl Ticne's resumé represent either duration of experience or amount of knowledge, based on her interpretation.
- The purpose of these numbers is to provide a visual comparison of information that gives employers a stronger idea of her strengths.

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SCALE OPERATOR
READY MIX
CUSTOMER SERVICE REP
CEMENT TERMINAL OPERATOR
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How to build an arts portfolio on the cheap

Media. Build a creative folder and get experience using various free tools

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

While finding an internship in the competitive field of the arts or media can be tough, there are things you can do on your own that will show employers you're not the type to just sit around and wait for things to happen, but rather you like to take action.

The best thing to do when you're studying in a field such as media, architecture or visual arts is to make your very own personalized creative folder that features all your work, which will act as a great tool to take along with you to interviews.

Here are a few ways you can build your portfolio on your own:

Write

Many colleges and universities have their own school newspapers, so try your best to find out how you can become a contributor.

You can often find opportunities to get writing experience outside of school, too.

Blog

Try starting up your own professional blog on free sites such as WordPress or tumblr. Make sure to keep your blog interesting and relevant, and keep up-to-date on the industry you hope to work for (but stay away from blogging on sensitive issues, such as culture, religion and politics, as you don't want to end up offending a reader).

Creative arts

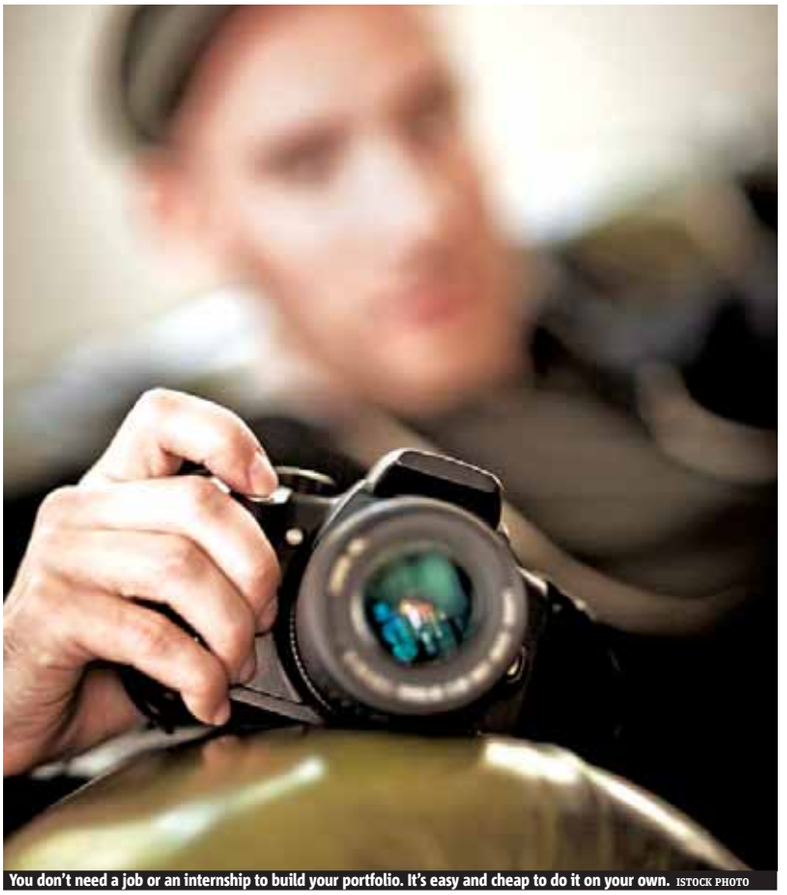
If you are the creative type, I strongly recommend Behance.net. This global online platform will allow you to create and upload your own special creative projects in several areas such as graphic design, typography, animation and motion graphics.

Not only will these do-it-yourself projects help you gain experience in your field, but they will also help to enlarge your professional network and can provide a source of extra cash.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

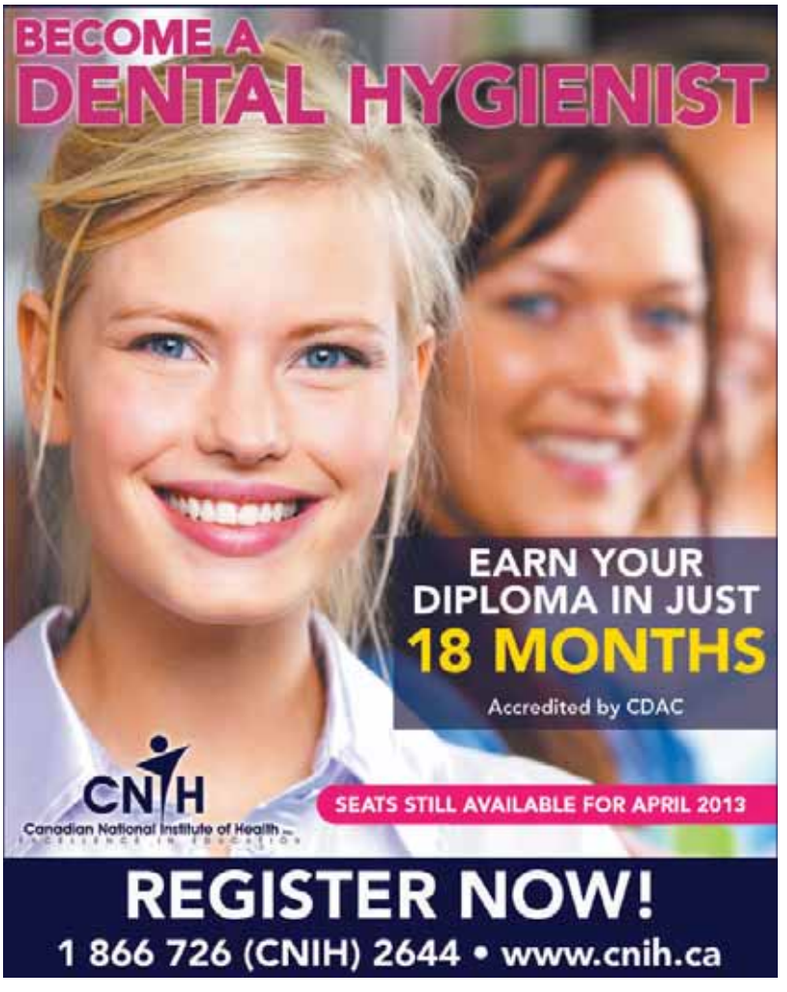
Photography

- **Equipment.** If you love taking photos, invest in or borrow a good quality camera and embark on the endless possibilities to discover the types of digital media you can create.
- **Experiment.** If you are into event photography, snapping pics at events on your campus is perhaps the best way to develop some skills and experience in that area. Want to practice portraits? Round up friends and offer to take professional photos for their LinkedIn profiles.



You don't need a job or an internship to build your portfolio. It's easy and cheap to do it on your own. ISTOCK PHOTO





They'll be gone in a New York minute



ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

These petite cheesecakes are perfect for one serving and leave none to go to waste.

They can also be ready sooner than a regular-sized cheesecake, since they chill much faster. Baking the cheesecakes in a water bath — a pan filled with water — keeps them moist and prevents them from sinking in the middle.

Serve them with fresh berries or a fruit-based dessert sauce and a dusting of icing sugar. I like to garnish with a drizzle of melted fruit sorbet, such as mango or raspberry.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper muffin liners.

2. Combine the ricotta, cream cheese, sour cream, egg, vanilla, lemon juice, zest, flour and sugar in a food processor and process until smooth and creamy. Divide the mixture among the prepared muffin cups.

3. Set the muffin tin in a larger pan or on a baking sheet with sides. Pour enough hot water into the pan to come one-third to one-half up the sides of the muffin cups.

4. Bake in the centre of the oven for 20 minutes.

5. Remove the muffin tin from the water bath and cool to room temperature on a rack. Chill for 1 hour.

6. To serve, remove the paper liners and place on individual serving plates. Garnish with berries and a sprinkle of icing sugar.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups smooth light ricotta
- 3/4 cup light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup light sour cream
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar

New-York-Style Miniature Cheesecakes



This recipe makes 12 cheesecakes. BRIAN MACDONALD FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Cinnabomb

A tasty explosion of three types of alcohol with ginger ale, this Cinnabomb is sure to be a crowd please at any get-together.

- .5 oz Smirnoff Vanilla Vodka
- .5 oz Grand Marnier
- .5 oz Goldschlager
- Cinnamon/sugar for rim
- Ginger ale
- Cranberries for garnish

Shake alcohol with ice in shaker.

Rim glass with cinnamon sugar. Add fresh ice to martini glass.

Strain shaker contents into fresh ice. Top with ginger ale.

Float 3 cranberries on top of ice. Add a cocktail straw and serve. PHOTO AND RECIPE: FIRKIN PUBS, FIRKINPUBS.COM



Red Velvet gets airy touch of Italian Meringue Frosting

Perfect little bites of velvety goodness with a light, airy frosting are easy to make and enjoy. Garnish these delicious cupcakes with an extra special sprinkle of edible gold flakes or coloured sugar to make them the star of your next special occasion.

1. In a large bowl, whisk together cake and pastry flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and baking soda; set aside.

2. In another small bowl, whisk together buttermilk, melted butter, egg, food colouring and vanilla. Pour over flour mixture and whisk until smooth and well-combined.

3. Divide batter among greased or paper-lined mini muffin tins and bake in preheated 350 F (180 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until toothpick in centre comes out clean. Remove from pan and let cool completely on rack.



This recipe makes 24 mini cupcakes.
EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Ingredients

- 1 1/3 cups (325 ml) cake and pastry flour, sifted
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) baking soda
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) buttermilk
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) red food colouring
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pure vanilla extract
- Edible gold flakes (for garnish)

Italian Meringue Frosting

- 1/3 cup (75 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) water
- 2 egg whites
- Pinch cream of tartar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) vanilla extract

4. Italian Meringue Frosting: In a small saucepan, bring sugar and water to boil, stirring to dissolve sugar. Let mixture boil for 5 minutes.

5. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, beat egg whites with cream of tartar until soft peaks form. While beating, add the hot sugar syrup in a steady stream and beat for about 5 minutes or until glossy stiff peaks form. Beat in vanilla.

6. Frost the cupcakes and sprinkle with gold flakes as desired.

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Dessert. Speedy Pear Crisp



Sometimes, even on a weeknight, you really crave a little dessert. But making dessert takes time, and you already are spending time cooking up the main event, namely dinner. That's where this recipe comes to the rescue.

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Lightly coat a shallow 6-cup baking dish with cooking spray.

2. In saucepan over medium-low, heat the preserves until melted and easily stirred.

3. Set the sliced pears in a large bowl, then drizzle the preserves over them. Add the lemon juice and salt, then toss well. Spread the pears evenly in the prepared baking dish.

4. Sprinkle the granola evenly over the pears, then cover the dish loosely with foil and bake 30 minutes. Remove the foil and bake another 15 minutes, or until the pears are tender. Serve hot or cold. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Ingredients

8 portions
Start to finish: 1 hour (15 minutes active)

- 1/2 cup plus 1 tbsp apricot preserves or sweetened fruit spread
- 4 pears (about 2 lbs), peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- Table salt
- 2 cups purchased granola

James does it again as Heat run winning streak to 12

NBA. Reigning MVP puts up 'video-game numbers' in 2OT win in Sacramento

LeBron James had 40 points and a career-high 16 assists, Dwyane Wade scored 39 and the Miami Heat pushed their winning streak to 12 games by outlasting the Sacramento Kings 141-129 in double overtime on Tuesday night.

Ray Allen added 21, Chris Bosh finished with 15 and Chris Andersen had 10 for the Heat, who remained six games clear of second-place Indiana in the Eastern Conference standings.

Miami's 12-game winning streak is the longest in the NBA and matches the second-longest in franchise history.

"Our ball club, we don't get rattled, no matter what's going on during the course of the game," James said. "If it's overtime, double-overtime, we find a way to win."

Marcus Thornton scored 36 points for Sacramento, the most by any reserve in the NBA this season. DeMarcus Cousins finished with 24 points and 15 rebounds and Tyreke Evans added 26 points.

James became the first NBA player to finish with at least 40 points and 16 assists since Kevin Johnson — now the mayor of Sacramento — had 42 and 17 for Phoenix against Denver on April 3, 1994.

"Even with a double-overtime game, those are video-game numbers," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Tuesday

Heat	Kings
141	129

Quoted

"We're coming together. We're doing it the right way. We're executing offensively. We're sharing the ball. And we're not getting rattled."

LeBron James on the Heat's recent success



Heat forward LeBron James backs down John Salmons on Tuesday night in Miami. In February, James finished 139 for 217 from the floor for a 64.1 percentage, by far the best shooting month of his career. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Jets jump into playoff picture in New York



Rangers forward Carl Hagelin watches Winnipeg Jets Ron Hainsey and Ondrej Pavelec stop a shot on Tuesday in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Winnipeg Jets are showing the Eastern Conference that they are a playoff threat and tough to beat on the road.

Now the former Atlanta Thrashers need to do the same thing back at home to make it stick.

Olli Jokinen scored twice and Evander Kane had a goal and assist in the second period for the surging Jets, who completed a dominant road trip with a 4-3 victory over the injury-riddled and slumping New York Rangers on Tuesday night.

Winnipeg went 0-3 at home before finding its stride and going 4-1 on its trip. The Jets' spurt vaulted them past the Rangers, and Winnipeg (9-9-1) is in a three-way tie for eighth place in the East playoff race — one point ahead of 11th-place New York (8-8-2).

"The competition is really tight this year," Jokinen said. "Every game is crucial, every point is crucial. We can be happy, and it's a good feeling now in the room, and we want to keep this, but at the same time we can't lose our focus.

"We're not 10 games over .500, we're .500."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elsewhere on Tuesday

- **Wild 2, Flames 1.** Zach Parise scored in overtime to lift Minnesota to a 2-1 win over Calgary.
- **Panthers 6, Penguins 4.** Tomas Kopecky recorded his first career hat trick, lifting Florida to a 6-4 win over Pittsburgh.
- **Bruins 4, Islanders 1.** Tuukka Rask dominated in the Boston net as the Bruins played a nearly perfect road game.

NBA

Pacers win testy tilt with Warriors

David West had 28 points and seven rebounds, and the Indiana Pacers overcame the ejection of Roy Hibbert following a fourth-quarter scuffle to beat the Golden State Warriors 108-97 on Tuesday night.

West also was called for a technical foul, along with the Warriors' David Lee, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson, for the altercation that began with 6:10 remaining in the game. It began when Lee and Hibbert exchanged shoves under the basket after a missed shot. Curry tried to push Hibbert away and was shoved to the court as the fight went from the key to the baseline.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pacers guard Lance Stephenson looks for the call from the official on Tuesday in Indianapolis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Ryder returns to old habitat

Michael Ryder is a Hab once again.

The Montreal Canadiens acquired Ryder and a third-round draft pick in 2013 from Dallas for Erik Cole. Ryder had a career-high 35 goals for the Stars last season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL



"They're really gentlemen to do that to me this year." **Simon Gagne,** who was traded back to the Philadelphia Flyers by the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday. Gagne was thankful for the trade after the Kings decided he no longer fit in coach Darryl Sutter's system.

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Romero believes his sinker is key to success

MLB. Jays starter looks to bounce back from roller-coaster 2012

Spring training is like a laboratory for pitchers, and Toronto Blue Jays left-hander Ricky Romero spent his time on the mound Tuesday testing out his sinker.

Teammate Brandon Morrow, using the Internet (brooksbaseball.net) for research, had pointed out that Romero had strayed from his sinker last year — he had thrown it just eight per cent of the time in 2012 against left-handers and 13 per cent against righties, compared to 26 and 21 per cent in 2011.

In all, he used the sinker 11 per cent compared to 22 per cent the previous year.

"Looking at those numbers, they're pretty crazy," said Romero, who has the printout in his locker to prove it.



Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Ricky Romero throws a warm-up pitch on Tuesday in Dunedin, Fla. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He's not sure what happened, other than he stopped trusting the two-seamer pitch in what turned out to be a roller-coaster year.

On Tuesday, Romero estimated he threw the sinker 90 to 95 per cent of the time in his first outing of the spring — a 8-4 loss to the Minnesota Twins that dropped Toronto's Grapefruit League record to 2-3.

"(I'm) just trying to get that pitch back and get it under control," said Romero. "But it definitely felt good to be back out there."

Get the sinker back and Romero believes he will "get back to the guy that I was."

"Getting ground balls out and quick outs. It all came off that sinker.... I know if it's down, it's going to be a ground ball more often than not," he added.

Romero had off-season elbow surgery and injections to his knees after a 2012 campaign that saw him suffer a franchise-record 13 consecutive losses after starting the season 8-1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who will catch Dickey?

The Toronto Blue Jays will decide who catches knuckleballer R.A. Dickey after the World Baseball Classic, says manager John Gibbons.

- Incumbent J.P. Arencibia has insisted he wants to handle Dickey this season, although the Jays have three catchers in camp — Henry Blanco, Josh Thole and Mike Nickeas — who have experience working with Dickey.

MLB

Morneau rounds into form vs. Jays

Justin Morneau is finding his hitting touch early in preparation for the World Baseball Classic.

Morneau had two hits, including an RBI double, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-4 on Tuesday.

Morneau will suit up for Canada in next month's WBC.

"Just to get my legs underneath me," Morneau said. "There's a big difference between playing five innings and playing nine. Knowing we're going to start earlier with the WBC, crank it up a little bit earlier."

Morneau received a nice cheer when he was introduced during the announcement of pregame lineups in Dunedin, Fla. The first baseman hit a three-run double in Minnesota's 5-4 victory over Pittsburgh on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



New Westminster, B.C.'s Justin Morneau GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	40	14	.741	—
Indiana	36	21	.632	5½
New York	33	20	.623	6½
Atlanta	32	23	.582	8½
Brooklyn	33	24	.579	8½
Chicago	32	24	.571	9
Boston	30	27	.526	11½
Milwaukee	26	28	.481	14
Toronto	**23**	**34**	**.404**	**18½**
Philadelphia	22	33	.400	18½
Detroit	22	37	.373	20½
Washington	18	37	.327	22½
Cleveland	18	38	.321	23
Orlando	16	41	.281	25½
Charlotte	13	43	.232	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	45	13	.776	—
Oklahoma City	41	15	.732	3
L.A. Clippers	40	18	.690	5
Memphis	37	18	.673	6½
Denver	36	22	.621	9
Golden State	33	24	.579	11½
Utah	31	26	.544	13½
Houston	31	27	.534	14
L.A. Lakers	28	30	.483	17
Portland	26	30	.464	18
Dallas	25	30	.455	18½
Minnesota	20	33	.377	22½
New Orleans	20	37	.351	24½
Sacramento	19	38	.333	25½
Phoenix	18	39	.316	26½

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Indiana 108 Golden State 97
Orlando 98 Philadelphia 84
Sacramento at Miami
Brooklyn at New Orleans
Cleveland at Chicago
Milwaukee at Dallas
Minnesota at Phoenix
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 90 **Toronto 84**
Atlanta 114 Detroit 103
Boston 110 Utah 107 (OT)
Denver 119 L.A. Lakers 108

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Sacramento at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
Golden State at New York, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Houston, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Utah, 9 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	19	13	6	0	65	48	26
New Jersey	19	10	5	4	48	49	24
Philadelphia	21	9	11	1	60	66	19
NY Rangers	18	8	8	2	44	48	18
NY Islanders	20	8	11	1	57	68	17

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	19	12	4	3	53	41	27
Boston	16	12	2	2	49	35	26
Ottawa	20	12	6	2	48	37	26
Toronto	20	12	8	0	57	46	24
Buffalo	20	7	12	1	50	64	15

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Carolina	18	9	8	1	50	54	19
Tampa Bay	19	9	9	1	70	60	19
Winnipeg	19	9	9	1	52	60	19
Washington	18	7	10	1	51	55	15
Florida	18	5	9	4	42	65	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	19	16	0	3	61	37	35
Nashville	20	9	6	5	44	47	23
St. Louis	18	10	6	2	55	52	22
Detroit	19	9	7	3	57	54	21
Columbus	20	5	12	3	44	61	13

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	18	10	4	4	52	48	24
Minnesota	17	8	7	2	37	42	18
Edmonton	18	7	7	4	42	49	18
Calgary	17	7	7	3	48	59	17
Colorado	17	7	8	2	42	51	16

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	17	13	3	1	59	47	27
Dallas	20	10	8	2	56	57	22
Los Angeles	17	9	6	2	45	41	20
San Jose	17	8	6	3	41	39	19
Phoenix	18	8	7	3	50	49	19

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Winnipeg 4 NY Rangers 3
Dallas 5 Columbus 4 (OT)
Washington 3 Carolina 0
Boston 4 NY Islanders 1
Buffalo 2 Tampa Bay 1
Pittsburgh at Florida
Calgary at Minnesota
Phoenix at Vancouver
Colorado at San Jose

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 4 Philadelphia 2
Ottawa 2 Montreal 1 (SO)
Nashville 5 Dallas 4 (OT)
Chicago 3 Edmonton 2 (OT)
Los Angeles 5 Anaheim 2

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Washington at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Nashville at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Detroit at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

GOLF

PGA TOUR

WORLD RANKINGS

Through February 26

1. Rory McIlroy	11.66
2. Tiger Woods	8.83
3. Luke Donald	7.25
4. Brandt Snedeker	6.74
5. Louis Oosthuizen	6.35
6. Justin Rose	6.32
7. Adam Scott	5.58
8. Matt Kuchar	5.45
9. Lee Westwood	5.37
10. Ian Poulter	5.23
11. Bubba Watson	5.18
12. Phil Mickelson	5.16
13. Steve Stricker	5.02
14. Charl Schwartzel	4.97
15. Jason Dufner	4.93
16. Webb Simpson	4.81
17. Sergio Garcia	4.77
18. Keegan Bradley	4.75
19. Graeme McDowell	4.58
20. Dustin Johnson	4.56
21. Hunter Mahan	4.52
22. Peter Hanson	4.32
23. Nick Watney	4.25
24. Ernie Els	4.10
25. Bo Van Pelt	4.02

Get your kicks in the new Mazda6



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Review. The more established members of the mid-size sedan class are in for a shock once they spy this car

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

For Mazda, shaking up the automotive establishment is all in a day's work.

Always the rebel, Mazda has a reputation for going against the grain in product development. The automaker refuses to offer a hybrid powertrain option, which is tantamount to sacrilege. Instead, it pursues internal-combustion-engine refinement under the SKYACTIV label. The 2013 CX-5 wagon was the first all-new Mazda fitted with this technology (direct fuel injection, etc.) and the recently launched third-edition Mazda6 is following suit.

2014 Mazda6

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engine (hp).** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (184)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $26,200



Engine

The base engine — in fact the only available powerplant at this point since the V6 is toast — is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder that makes 184 horsepower and 185 pound-feet of torque. The uniqueness of the new four-cylinder is its higher-than-usual 13:1 compression ratio that gives the engine extra punch.

Design

From most angles the Mazda6 is more expressive than the previous version and closely resembles Mazda's Shinari and Takeri concept cars that revealed a new styling direction. The front-end treatment is arguably the best looking in this class, while the rest retains the familiar sweep of the roofline and truncated rear.

From most angles the Mazda6 is more expressive than the previous version and closely resembles Mazda's Shinari and Takeri concept cars that revealed a new styling direction. The front-end treatment is arguably the best looking in this class, while the rest of the car doesn't stray too far from the past and retains the familiar sweep of the roofline and truncated rear.

The new-design Mazda6 sheet metal is the gift-wrapping that hides considerable technological advancements beneath the skin.

Following its initial launch, Mazda will offer a Volkswagen-challenging 2.2-litre four-cylinder turbo-diesel option that also receives the SKYACTIV appellation. It features lowered engine compression that Mazda says makes it clean burning without any nasty particulates exiting the exhaust.

A recent drive in one of Mazda's test mules confirms that the diesel 2.2 generates plenty of torque, but that it also drives just like a gasoline engine without the usual tell-tale clatter normally associated with diesels. Exact power and torque specs will be released closer to launch.

The base GX model that lists for $26,200, including destination charges, comes with the usual power and comfort ingredients and push-button start. It also comes with a touch-screen display with Bluetooth networking and a rear-view camera.

With its dedicated approach to improving power, reducing overall energy consumption and creating a heartbeat-skipping shell, the Mazda6 will generate plenty of look-sees, or at least make buyers seriously ponder this nifty, thrifty sedan.

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One of the three NSX prototypes built over the years. ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

NSX: New Sport Experimental

Dream Car. 25 years apart, they're entirely different but share the same soul

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com

As a young and eager automotive writer back in early September of 1990, I wasn't really sure what to expect when I rolled into the Acura dealership to see the shiny red NSX.

There were basically no "performance" cars in 1990, other than the Dodge Stealth Turbo, Nissan 300ZX and of course the Corvette ZR-1 and the Viper. Think about those cars as you consider the visual shock of the NSX.

The thing I recall most was how low the roof was and how long the tail was. It was like the reverse of the Corvette's proportions. Of course, that's because the engine was tucked in behind the driver, pushing the two-place cabin forward a whole bunch.

As low as it was, the NSX was easy to get into without the usual gymnastics required to crawl over the door sills of the Corvette. The interior was also very different in that the dash was low and away, the seats were tight, but comfortable, and the centre console swept down from the dashboard like a ski slope.

I had never seen anything like it, or driven anything like it. Most sporty cars in 1990 couldn't push past 5,000 revs per minute. The NSX's 270-horsepower V6 freely revved to 8,000, which was unheard of at the time. A V6? That had more horsepower than the Mustang and Camaro V8 engines? And to make it rev, the NSX was the first Honda/Acura production vehicle to use VTEC variable valve timing. It also had titanium connecting rods (employed 15 years later in the Corvette Z06) to hold it together.

You can drive an NSX three seasons of the year, with the right tires of course, and as far as you want without fear of not making it home. It's a terrific highway car and while it lacks when compared to today's high-performance wonders, especially in straight-line acceleration, the NSX is still one of the most pleasing cars there is and represents fantastic value. It's a bit raw and noisy by today's standards and provides thrilling views from its virtually unobstructed forward glass area. And the howl of the engine once it hits 5,000 rpm will give you goose bumps. It's like driving an enclosed motorcycle.



This is apparently just one direction the new NSX might go in when it comes to interior. Lots of carbon fibre and artful design.

Through the years, Acura hinted at a replacement and despite a couple of concept cars, just never delivered. It has been eight years since the last NSX and with Japan now firmly on the supercar map with vehicles such as the Lexus LFA it seemed like a replacement was no longer of any strategic importance to Acura.

Perhaps all that on-again, off-again, on-again, off-again talk over the years had everyone so indifferent about an NSX return that when the current concept car arrived a year ago there was just as much excitement as for the arrival of the first NSX more than 20 years ago. Maybe it had to do with the TV commercials a year ago that featured Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld, but the excitement is most definitely back, and what a difference 20 years has made (25 by the time it actually arrives, likely in 2015).

The new NSX will keep its engine-in-the-back layout and its two-person limit, but it will also be one of the first all-wheel-drive hybrid supercars. The gasoline engine will be a V6, likely in the 3.5-litre range, that will be used for cruising down the highway because to be a supercar, the new NSX will have to have something a lot more "super" in a world of twin-turbocharged V8s. The last NSX could run zero-to-60-mph (96 km-h) in 4.8 seconds. The current Nissan GT-R can do it in 2.9.

The new NSX will compete using electric motors at the front and rear to aid the V6's acceleration. Performance details are non-existent as of this writing, but if the electric motors could add somewhere around 200 horsepower, the NSX will be in thick of things, likely competing with the likes of the Audi R8. Of course, in the two years it will take to get the NSX to market, the competition will also progress.

At the recent North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Mich., the NSX prototype reappeared, this time with an actual interior (the NSX prototype introduced in early 2012 had no interior), one example of how the NSX could be fitted, Acura said. Wrapped in carbon fibre, leather and metal bits, it's truly a cut above current sports cars in its expected price range of about $120,000-$140,000.

All this to ask the very real question: is there really a point to the new NSX. Well, yes. Acura needs its halo car back as an example of what its technically capable of. And, quite frankly, seeing the new car, I get the same goose bumps I had back in 1990. It's just a matter of time before I find one that's a few years old to park beside my original '91.

JEFF MELNYCHUK IS WHEELBASE MEDIA'S MANAGING EDITOR. HE CAN BE REACHED ON THE WEB AT WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM BY CLICKING THE CONTACT LINK. WHEELBASE SUPPLIES AUTOMOTIVE NEWS AND FEATURES TO NEWSPAPERS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.



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Revving the five point ... oh!

Autoknow. 420 hp is a great number, but it took a group of Mustang enthusiasts to find it in the 5.0-litre engine

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com



As the fender badging points out, Ford began seriously marketing the 302 V8 as litres, but 5.0 is nice, round number. Also round (or flat, perhaps) was its paltry 140 horsepower rating. FORD ARCHIVES

Michael Delproposto owns a 1967 Ford Mustang coupe. Brian Armstrong suns himself at high speed in a red 2007 Shelby GT500 convertible. Adam Christian's 1966 Mustang is part way through its resurrection as a fully modernized classic, while Chris Tucker's weapon of choice is a 1983 Mercury Capri, the twin to the Mustang.

These four, and 14 other Mustang owners, form a special club. They're the men and women responsible for Ford's 5.0-litre V8 found in the current Mustang GT.

Who better to put on the project than people who would fabricate the exhaust manifolds at home in the garage? Yes, engineering savvy from rabid Mustang enthusiasts is what's under the hood of your 420-horsepower 2013 Mustang GT, even if the 5.0 is not technically "back" as Ford has been touting since 2010.

As with the Hemi, the only part of the 5.0 that's truly "back" (and from a rather inglorious past, at that) is the name. Even the displacement is different than the previous 5.0-litre engine — which dates back to the late 1960s as the 302 was actually 4.9 litres.

Forty-year-old technology? Back? We certainly hope not. You could take a lot of shots at the 5.0 over the years for its actual lack of performance under the hood of a stock Mustang and even bigger shots at its 4.6-litre successor that always seemed to be a step or two behind Chevrolet and Chrysler.

While the 4.6 proliferated in the late 1990s, a groundswell of affection for 5.0 kept the old cam-in-block design alive and well and winning all sorts of racing events. In the hands of privateers, the 5.0 actually had something Ford never seemed to give it: power, and lots of it. Fitted with aluminum heads, the 5.0 became a lightweight and potent performer that reached legendary and perhaps even heroic status. The crew here at Wheelbase Media tested a variant of the 5.0 at 482 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque (vimeo.com/wheelbase).

Meanwhile, by Ford's own admission, the Mustang's 4.6-litre V8, at 315 horsepower, was outmatched ("By 2007, the Mustang competitive landscape was beginning to change . . .") at least on paper, and in need of a serious upgrade.

Capitalizing on the original 5.0's post-Ford success and popularity was likely a smart move in launching the new 5.0, especially considering the grand plan.

Enter the 18 members of Ford's 5.0-litre team with a goal of creating more than 400 horsepower. This might seem like a lofty goal considering the 4.6 was 85 horsepower shy of 400 and that the bigger 5.7-litre Chrysler Hemi V8 was in the 370 range and the bigger-still 6.2-litre Camaro V8 was at 426 horsepower. But, what most people didn't know was that Ford had been offering a 420-horsepower 5.0-litre double-overhead Cammer engine through its parts department since 2003.

Listing for about $15,000 US, the Cammer was ready-made proof the power could be made with 5.0 litres of displacement — in this case, a 4.6-litre engine block with a larger bore — but push the clock ahead seven years and fuel economy and durability were major considerations, especially for a high-volume car such as the Mustang.

Team member Todd Brewer, who owns a 1987 5.0-litre Mustang GT, was in charge of double-overhead-cam cylinder-head development of the new 5.0.

"Striking the optimal balance between all of these attributes required us to do all the things we know how to do, only better," he said.

Variable cam timing makes the engine more docile and thrifty when your foot isn't jammed to the floorboard, such as when cruising the freeway or idling at a red light.

Fuel economy, despite the hefty power and torque increase, is at least as good as the previous 4.6. Engine efficiency is one chapter of that story. The Mustang GT with the new 5.0 for 2011 (rated at 412 horsepower for the inaugural year) was claimed to pull down 25 m.p.g. on the highway.

The 5.0 is all aluminum, too, which means it's just 430 pounds, which is 20 per cent lighter than the physically much smaller all-iron 5.0 of old, according to Ford.

How important is diet? Carroll Shelby said at the time, "It might not be as sexy as adding more horsepower or bigger brakes, but shaving pounds off a car is the single smartest move you can make."

Smart? It's enough to make you wonder if the 18 members of the 5.0 team weren't designing the new engine to power their own cars. Then again, maybe they were.

Engine evolution



1 The Cammer

The idea of a 5.0-litre engine with dual overhead camshafts is hardly foreign to Ford since it offered this 420-horsepower 5.0 Cammer in its parts catalogue and showed it between the fenders of a 1965 Mustang back in 2003. The current 5.0 shares little with this engine, however. **PHOTO CREDIT: FORD ARCHIVES**

2 From the 289

The original 5.0-litre engine was a descendent of the 302-cubic-inch engine from the 1960s. The 302 evolved from the 289 (4.7-litre) engine, pictured here.

PHOTO CREDIT: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

3 '80s and '90s

The 5.0-litre engine of the 1980s and '90s wasn't exactly a heavy hitter, but it gained fame in the hands of privateers who successfully raced with it. Here, this 331-cubic-inch engine is derived from a 1994 5.0 and produces 482 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque. This is actually a street engine, not a race engine. **PHOTO CREDIT: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM**

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It's a pricey ride, even used, so don't cheap out on peace of mind

Second Gear.
2002 to 2012
Mercedes-Benz SL

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca



HANDOUT

Few machines embody world-class comfort, premium sophistication and advanced performance quite like the Mercedes Benz SL. A two-seat convertible designed for comfortable, high-speed, top-optional travels, it was available in its last full generation from 2002 to 2012.

Feature content for this luxo-rocket included a fully motorized power roof, navigation, heated leather seats with the 'airscarf' neck-warmer system, Bluetooth, premium audio by Harman Kardon, driver-selectable suspension and plenty more.

Common Issues

Complaints tended to deal with noises, like squeaks and rattles, as the car ages. System malfunctions, which are typically referenced by a message in the instrument cluster, are also somewhat well documented. Be sure none of these messages are present on the model you're test-driving.

Listen for a metallic "clanging" sound from the rear of the vehicle as it comes to rest, or while it's resting shortly after being stopped. Numerous owners have reported issues with baffles breaking off inside the fuel tank and floating noisily around. It's a pricey repair.

Ensure the motorized top works as expected, completing several full "open" and "close" cycles and listening for any binding, hesitation or strain. The roof should open smoothly and quietly.

Avoid models with the ABC suspension. This system will eventually wear down and break, resulting in a big repair bill.

Engine

Look for V8 power on most models, with power ranging from 302 to just under 500 horses. Automatic transmissions and rear-wheel drive were fitted to all models.

What owners like

Head-tuning factor, on-road presence and performance were the SL's most highly-rated assets, according to many owners. Plenty of on-board storage and all-around comfort were also commented upon positively. This is a two-seater that's road-trip ready.

What owners dislike

Fuel consumption and maintenance costs were among the most common complaints of the SL.

Verdict

The SL is loved for many things, but low maintenance costs aren't among them. Take any SL you're considering strongly to a Mercedes mechanic for a comprehensive inspection. You're spending big bucks on this car — so don't cheap out on the inspection.

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HondaAlberta.ca

*Limited time lease offers based on new 2012 Honda models. Lease examples based on a new 2012 Civic LX, model FB2E4CEX, available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. 0.99% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment, including freight and PDI, is $238.00. Down payment of $0, environmental fees, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $11,424.00. Taxes, license, insurance, environmental fees and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance, charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. [1]MSRP is $19,235.00 for a new 2012 Civic LX, model FB2E4CEX, and includes $1,485.00 freight and PDI. Taxes, license, insurance, environmental fees and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. *No Payments for 90 days payment deferral is only applicable to purchase financing offers (O.A.C) on all new 2012 and 2013 Honda models, purchased and delivered before February 28, 2013. ®/TM Offers valid from February 1, 2013 through February 28, 2013 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Alberta residents at Honda Dealers of Alberta. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit HondaAlberta.ca or see your Honda retailer for full details.

Parts Department

Whether it's a birthday gift for a friend or loved one or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA



Gearhead candy

This unique collection of Edible Chocolate Candy Gears from Andie's Specialty Sweets would make the ideal gift for someone who tinkers with the inner workings of vehicles. The basic package includes 50 assorted gears that vary in size. The company states that its gears are made using fair-trade organic ingredients. Andie's confections are also completely devoid of cornstarch, hydrogenated oil, or artificial flavours or colours. They almost sound like health-food items don't they? Each "gear set" sells for US $42.50 and can be ordered from etsy.com/listing/109115973/.

R8 V10, five and under

If it's a ride-on-type car for small fry up to five years of age you're looking for, the playful gang at Pedal Car Express sells more self- and battery propelled varieties than you could ever imagine. One of the neatest is this Italian-made Audi R8 Spyder that's produced under licence and with participation from the automaker itself. The roadster features realistic plastic wheels, outside mirrors and sports steering wheel with all the correct Audi badges and stickers. It also comes with a 12-volt rechargeable battery that propels the R8 to an eight-km-h top speed for up to 1.5 hours. A forward, reverse and neutral shifter is also part of the package. The R8 sells fully assembled for $509 US. pedalcar-express.com.





Instant wipe-up

It's quite common for your car's windshield, side, or rear glass to require a quick cleanup from fingerprints, bugs, bird droppings and assorted environmental dirt and grime. That's where ArmorAll Glass Wipes can come in handy. The manufacturer states that these ammonia-free wipes will remove tough messes without streaking and will remain damp for up to a year (not recommended for use on glass that has added plastic-tinted film). To use, simply wipe over the glass surface and let dry. A 25-pack of Glass Wipes sells for about $10 us and is available through most department or auto-parts stores. For complete product info, go to armorall.com.

Shelby on a roll

You might not be able to afford a Shelby Mustang GT500, but you could still take a Shelby on a trip. This solid-frame carry-on bag is made of ballistic-grade nylon with attached telescoping handle and rolls on sporty cast-alloy-style wheels. Auto racing legend Carroll Shelby's signature is embroidered on the bag and a cast-metal GT500 logo is in plain view. The bag sells for $80 US, or you can order a three-piece set of Shelby luggage that includes a duffel and smaller tote for $209 US. world classmotoring.com.

VIEW THE EVER-EVOLVING AUTO GIFT GUIDE AT WHEELBASE.WS/MEDIA (CLICK THE "COOL AUTO GIFT IDEAS" CATEGORY AT THE RIGHT).



ON NOW AT YOUR ALBERTA CHEVROLET DEALERS. AlbertaChevrolet.com 1-800-GM-DRIVE. Chevrolet is a brand of General Motors of Canada. ‡/††/^Offers apply to the purchase of a 2013 Equinox LS FWD (R7A) equipped as described. Freight included ($1,550). License, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Offer available to retail customers in Canada. See Dealer for details. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers, and are subject to change without notice. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in Alberta Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only. Dealer order or trade may be required. GMCL, RBC Royal Bank, TD Auto Financing Services or Scotiabank may modify, extend or terminate this offer in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See Chevrolet dealer for details. ▼Based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. †† 0.99% purchase financing for 84 months on 2013 Equinox LS approved credit. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 @ 0.99% for 84 months with deposit may be required. Monthly payment is $123.27. Cost of borrowing is $354.62. Total obligation is $10,354.62. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payments and cost of borrowing will also vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Biweekly payments based on a purchase price of $28,595. 2013 Chevrolet Equinox with $2,399 down equipped as described. ‡ Based on a 48 month lease for new (demonstrator not eligible) 0.9% advertised on 2013 Equinox LS FWD equipped as described. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000km, $0.20 per excess kilometer. OAC by FinanciaLinx Corporation. Lease APR may vary depending on down payment/trade. Down payment or trade and security deposit may be required. Total obligation is $17,247. Option to purchase at lease end is $12,048 plus applicable taxes. Other lease options available. † Valid at participating GM dealerships in Canada only. Retail customers only. Offer ranges from 750 to 3,000 AIR MILES® reward miles, depending on model purchased. No cash value. Offer may not be combined with certain other AIR MILES promotions or offers. See your participating GM dealer for details. Offer expires February 28, 2013. Please allow 4–6 weeks after the Offer end date for reward miles to be deposited to your AIR MILES® Collector Account. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this Offer for any reason in whole or in part at any time without notice. Miles are issued by LoyaltyOne Inc. and are subject to the terms and conditions of the AIR MILES Reward Program. ®/™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and General Motors of Canada Limited. +©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ¥ Based on latest competitive data available. ~ OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery) wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Policy and details and system limitations. Additional information can be found in the OnStar Owner's Guide. †* Comparison based on 2012 Wards segmentation: Middle/Cross Utility Vehicle and latest competitive data available, and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. *^For more information visit iihs.org/ratings.

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SCAN HERE TO FIND YOURS

Keeping your eyes on the road



The Hyundai HCD-14 Genesis concept vehicle has no centre stack, and there are no buttons or knobs on the dash.
HANDOUT

Driving Force.
Hyundai introduces eye-tracking and 3D technology in new concept vehicle

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

The safest way to drive is with your eyes on the road, of course. Still, that isn't always easy to do when there are numerous controls that you have to adjust for the climate, stereo and other functions.

Hyundai thinks it may have the answer with a new system that uses eye-tracking and 3D technology to handle some of the car's functions. The technology has been demonstrated in the company's HCD-14 Genesis concept vehicle, but there's no timeline on when it might be available in production vehicles.

"Premium vehicles have (numerous) buttons, knobs, dials and switches, and it's overwhelming," says Michael Ricciuto, national manager of product and strategic planning for Hyundai Canada.

"We want to simplify it so that customers get the full benefit of functionality, but with their eyes primarily on driving."

The design shown in the concept car has no centre stack, and there are no buttons or knobs on the dash. When the driver wants to control a function, he first presses a button on the steering wheel, which activates the system.

A small head's-up display shows up on the lower part of the windshield, with icons for each of the car's various systems. When the driver looks at the one he wants, several small cameras track his eye movements and determine which one to select.

From there, the driver puts his hand in front of a sensor area near the console and make a gesture to control the function, such as turning the wrist, which will adjust the stereo's volume or fan speed, or a motion to select a radio station or turn on the heated seats.

The system can be used for navigation controls, or for smartphone connectivity functions.

"It has to be simple and natural," Ricciuto says.

"You look at the icon, turn it on with your eyes, and away you go, and that's the fundamentals of how it will work. We're preparing for the next generation of controlling a car.

"We can say people should turn off their devices and drive, but the reality is that won't happen, so these are the technologies we think will make it simpler and more intuitive."

More details

- **Although the system works with hand gestures, the driver has to initiate the sequence with a button, which prevents unintended operation.**
- **Hyundai plans to eventually offer the system in some of its premium models in the future.**



All GM vehicles are getting Internet, now where do we go to the bathroom?

Auto Pilot. A future where all cars are connected sounds great but will we ever leave our cars?



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Get ready for a future where virtually all vehicles are Internet hot spots.

At a mobility conference in Spain this week, GM announced it will equip virtually all its 2015 models in the United States and Canada with 4G LTE high-speed broadband. Some of those 2015 models should be on sale by mid 2014.

There is a sprinkling of models from other manufacturers, like Mercedes-Benz, and Chrysler, that have 3G-based hot spots. BMW introduced 4G LTE wi-fi to its 7 Series this past year. And of course you can get onto the Internet on many vehicles by syncing your smartphone into their infotainment systems.

But while we have been definitely moving toward this wi-fi future, the GM announcement is a declaration of sorts that Internet hot spots in the majority of vehicles is a fait accompli.

GM said "embedding" or "hard wiring" vehicles with LTE high-speed broadband is a faster and more reliable connection for infotainment offerings.

Otherwise, GM has to rely on whatever good or wonky smartphone technology and coverage that is in the hands of its customers.

Also, with this system, customers don't have to have a smartphone to use the vehicle's connected services, because, well, their vehicle is a smartphone.

And finally, having a vehicle with the capacity to be connected to the World Wide Web in such a profound way sets up all sorts of fantastic connected scenarios.

GM could update a lot of software wirelessly, and keep their vehicles up-to-date on a whole bunch of parameters, not just infotainment ones.

So yeah, all great. Video streaming movies. People on Facebook or Skype with their i-Pads. Real time traffic updates.

Pulling information from the cloud.

Yada Yada Yada.



GM has announced it will be "embedding" all of its 2015 models with 4G LTE high-speed broadband. HANDOUT

Imagine a world where ...

So yeah, all great. Video streaming movies. People on Facebook or Skype with their iPads. Real time traffic updates. Pulling information from the cloud. Yada Yada Yada.



Extra charges?

The downside

Well, the general nature of face-to-face human contact, nurtured and evolved through millennia, now reversing and degrading to a world where humans only feel comfortable looking at a screen of some sort, might be one.

But say we don't worry about that one, what about your monthly car payments? I'm guessing there will be an extra charge for data services. Not sure, but my current Internet and cellphone provider seems to operate on such a revenue model.

Another thing: my car already has a better sound system than any in our house. In the future it might also have the best wi-fi.

You can already feed yourself via the drive-thrus. You'll never wanna get out of the car. The need for washroom facilities is still there, but maybe they're working on that too.

Just kick it: Ford opens the liftgate

If you've ever had to put down an armload of groceries so you could open your vehicle's liftgate, you probably think there must be a better way.

Ford agreed, and its new Escape and C-Max Hybrid models can be equipped with a hands-free electric liftgate that opens when you have the key fob in your pocket, and you kick your foot under the rear bumper.

"There are two sensors, one underneath where the fascia wraps around, and one at the rear," says Kaci Hrynewich, program management at Ford Motor Company.

"These create a field that is disturbed when a foot (is placed) in it, and both of those sensors have to have that detection in order for them to 'talk' to the module to open the liftgate."

The theory behind the liftgate is relatively simple — it uses motion technology similar to that in some video games — but actually putting it into a production model was more of a challenge.

"We have multiple components all coming together, so we had to figure out how far away you have to be," Hrynewich says. "We had to try it with the metallic paint on our colour palette to make sure the sensor field wouldn't be affected by it.

"We also had a tight packaging space, which was a concern because we couldn't put (the module) too close to a bumper beam, because it's conductive and it wouldn't work. It's easy to look at the guidelines for the system, but then you have to put them into the vehicle you're trying to engineer, and we had to package that and make sure it still functioned properly."

Each of the two sensors has a specific function. One senses that your leg is there, while the other detects the motion, and both have to be triggered by the kicking motion in order for the liftgate to open or close.

The vehicle must also detect the electronic key fob before any motion starts the liftgate action.

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

Liftgate history

- Power "liftgates" were on station wagons. In 1971, full-size GM wagons had two-piece power tailgates, where the window slid up into the roof, and the bottom gate slipped down under the floor.



Kickin' it: Ford's new Escape and C-Max Hybrid models are equipped with hands-free liftgate technology. HANDOUT

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This would be a good day to clarify your ambitions and to let those in positions of power and authority know that unless they offer you something better you will be looking elsewhere. Say it and mean it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
It's time to get tough with someone who has been taking liberties. Yes, of course, you could blame yourself for allowing the situation to drag on so long but ultimately it's their fault, not yours, so speak up.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may need to backtrack a little today if you don't want to fall out with a friend or work colleague. OK, so you believe that what you said was true but did you have to be so sarcastic about it?

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Be honest with loved ones today, even if what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear. If they mean something to you then you must make sure they see the light — for their own good.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A new health or fitness program could be just what you need to get yourself moving again, physically and mentally. And stick with it this time. It won't be long before you see some seriously encouraging results.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be surprised by what happens today but don't just stand there or you could miss out on an opportunity to benefit from unexpected changes. And don't feel guilty if you gain from someone else's misfortune.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may find it hard to turn down a call for assistance but it's necessary. If you don't, you will find yourself doing things for others that they really should be doing for themselves. Don't let them take advantage.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The planets will give you the courage you require to start something you have been yearning to do for ages. Great changes are taking place all around you but don't be afraid: They are the kind of changes you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't stop thinking and don't stop looking for ways to improve your position in life. Over the next few days there will be more than one opportunity to make money from sudden events. If you don't then someone else will.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
An idea that pops into your head out of nowhere may be outrageous, but the more you allow yourself to think about it the more you will like it. Some say you are too cautious to take risks. Prove them wrong.

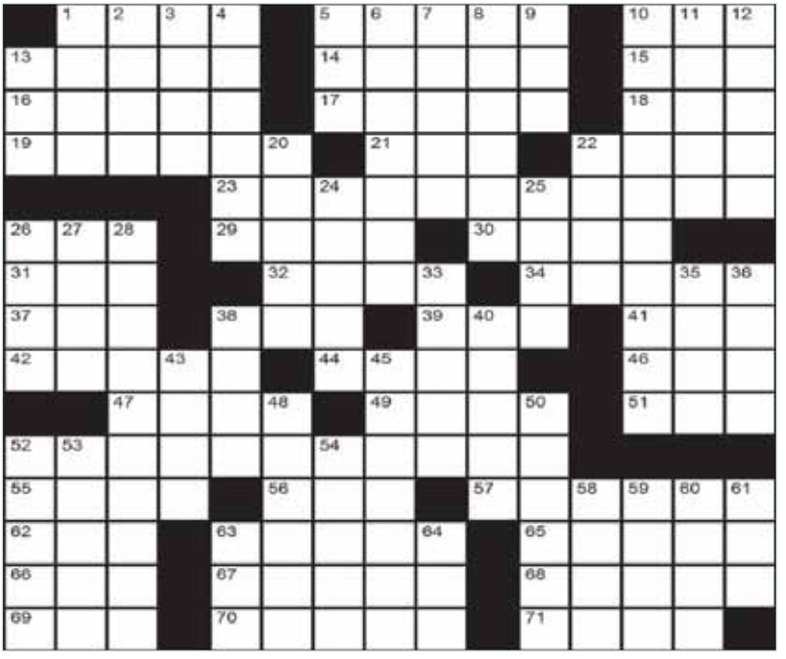
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There are so many changes going on that even the most adventurous of Aquarians may be wondering where it is all going to end. But change never ends — you know that. Make change your friend.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you approach a difficult problem from an unusual angle today you may be surprised how simple the answer is. If you are still stuck though you should ask someone you trust.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

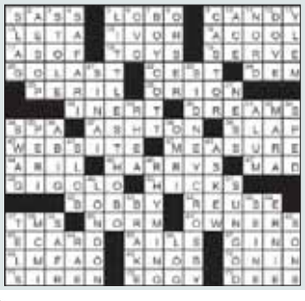
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Bell's loud ring
5. Fab Four's famous Road
10. Roll of grass
13. Ancient Greek colony
14. Irish writer, James __
15. 'Fort' finisher (Luck)
16. Montreal's __ Royal
17. Illegally sell tickets
18. Point
19. Gauge
21. Bambi's aunt
22. Train sound, when repeated
23. "Try Honesty" band: 2 wds.
26. Ms. Simpson, for short
29. Holler!
30. Curved music symbol
31. Aunt's li'l husband
32. Horse's pace
34. Recounts
37. Ski-__
38. Jewel
39. Filmmaker, John __
41. Archery skill
42. Computer chip company
44. Aid and __
46. Modern
47. Really mad
49. Pro __ (In proportion)
51. Made a hole in the ground
52. Canadian fashion journalist born in Toronto: 2 wds.
55. City, in Latin
56. 'M' of PM, for short
57. The __ Family (Celtic music group)
62. Writer Mr. Levin
63. Blue Rodeo singer Jim
65. Dutch cheese
66. Defraud
67. Nymph of Greek mythology
68. Ms. Winfrey
69. Antlered animal
70. Actor Sean's surnamesakes
71. Profits

Down
1. Jeers
2. Burden
3. Kate Hudson movie musical
4. F. Scott Fitzgerald novel, The Great __
5. Mr. McLean's of the Backstreet Boys
6. "The Prayer" duo: Celine Dion & Andrea __
7. "Not __ __ stretch of the imagination."
8. Acclamations
9. "Uh-huh."
10. Donald or Kiefer
11. Tears-inducer
12. The Home __
13. The Monkees hit: "__ _ Believer"
20. Warfare attack
22. Hint
24. Animal of The Andes
25. __ sax
26. Dame __ Dench
27. 'Phenom' ending
28. Financial institution founded in Halifax in 1832
33. Fine-tune
35. Stead
36. City haze
38. Type of valley
40. Sea __ (Cute mammal)
43. Sea eagles [var. sp.]
45. Actor Mr. Fraser
48. Bashful
50. Catherine of __ (King Henry VIII's first wife)
52. Orange __
53. Film legend Mr. Flynn
54. Vice President Joe __
58. Negative reply
59. Mr. Russell
60. Filmmaker Ms. Lupino, and others
61. "Uh-uh."
63. Crime fighter
64. Li'l length units

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

4	7						5	1
		2	3			6		
1			5		6			
9				3		2	6	
				2				
	1	3		8				9
			2		9			7
		4			8	5		
7	5						2	8

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	4	8	7	1	6	3	9
6	8	1	3	9	5	4	2	7
3	9	7	4	6	2	8	1	5
5	2	6	9	1	7	3	8	4
8	1	3	5	4	6	7	9	2
7	4	9	2	3	8	5	6	1
4	6	8	1	5	9	2	7	3
9	3	2	7	8	4	1	5	6
1	7	5	6	2	3	9	4	8

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -2° MIN: -7°	MAX: 0° MIN: -15°	MAX: 0° MIN: -8°



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Southgate Centre
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10429 178th St.
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14903 118th Ave. NW
17508 Stony Plain Rd.

North
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9624 165th Ave.
10642 82nd Ave. NW
12714 137th Ave.

South
1916 99th St.
1934 38th Ave. NW
4515 Gateway Blvd.
4909 99th St. NW
5912 104th St.
8710 51st Ave.
9518 Ellerslie Rd. SW
10309 34th Ave.
13034 50th St.

Leduc
5311 Discovery Way
5906 50th St.
6109 45th St.

Morinville
9918 100th St.

St. Albert
St. Albert Centre
20 Muir Dr.

Sherwood Park
Sherwood Park Mall
973 Ordze Rd.
975 Broadmoor Blvd.

Spruce Grove
Westland Market Mall
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